



Best for World Book Day

Including: TONY BLAIR
HELEN DUNMORE, BEN JARI,
MALCOLM BRADLEY

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ASPIRIN'S LATEST MIRACLE



Dr Stuttaford
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Step aside DiCaprio

MATT DAMON in
The Rainmaker

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36 PAGES OF OPPORTUNITIES
IN TWO SECTIONS

US coroner is to investigate Linda McCartney's cremation

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

THE coroner in Santa Barbara yesterday launched an investigation into the cremation of Linda McCartney after proper procedures were flouted following her death last week.

Five days after Lady McCartney's death, the local coroner had not been notified or contacted for a cremation permit. An informal investigation has been launched to find out why. But the

coroner's office stressed that no foul play was suspected and that the investigation was not a criminal one.

A spokesman for the coroner's office said of the confusion surrounding Lady McCartney's death: "When you can't get an answer, there's an inference that there's something to be hidden. It does present... the possibility of an assisted suicide or some other sinister-type thing going on."

Sergeant Tom Nelson of the coroner's office told reporters in

California: "What is supposed to take place did not take place. When a person dies, before the body can be disposed of by burial or cremation, a death certificate must be filed in the county where the death occurred and a disposition permit must be issued. To the best of our knowledge, that has not occurred."

Under Californian law, bodies are routinely examined by the local coroner in cases of suicide, murder or other sudden death, but since no death certificate was filed for Lady McCartney the Santa Barbara

coroner was unable to say whether an examination should have taken place.

A doctor, funeral director and crematorium representative must have known about the death and may now have some explaining to do, Sergeant Nelson told the Santa Barbara News Press. "Sooner or later the certificates are going to have to surface and those people are going to have to answer questions," he warned.

Sergeant Nelson acknowledged that the McCartneys probably

acted swiftly to keep the cremation out of the media spotlight, but the baffling lack of information on where or exactly when it occurred has nonetheless raised suspicions.

Sir Paul McCartney last night vigorously denied the death of his wife Linda had been "assisted".

His spokesman, Geoff Baker, said last night: "Any suggestion that her death was assisted is complete and absolute rubbish, a total nonsense."

Officials at the Santa Barbara County Health Department said at

the weekend that wealthy local residents often use Los Angeles mortuaries to handle funeral arrangements. In such cases the mortuaries have eight days in which to inform local county officials of the death, and this information is then passed back to the county where it occurred.

According to the McCartney family, Lady McCartney died in Santa Barbara early last Friday morning with her family at her bedside, and was cremated within 24 hours. Locations have not been

given for the death or cremation however, causing rumours to fly even as she was mourned at a public service in the Californian seaside town on Tuesday night.

No Los Angeles officials have so far been informed of Lady McCartney's death, however. A spokesman for the city's coroner's office concluded: "It's a mystery. Someone is not quite telling the whole truth."

He added: "We are operating in the blind because we just don't have any answers yet."

20 million calls swamp French football lines

BY BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND ADRIAN LEE IN LONDON

MILLIONS of telephones were slammed down in anger across Europe yesterday as French attempts to sell the last 10,000 World Cup tickets descended into chaos.

Just 60 operators manned an office in Paris to take calls from football fans in 16 countries, and they were swamped from the moment the lines opened. France Télécom registered 20 million calls during the day — nearly all ending with an engaged tone — but by last night only 15,000 tickets had been sold.

British fans alone made 15 million calls to the hotline, with only a handful managing to secure tickets. A telecommunications expert said that the chance of getting through to so few operators was "slightly better than winning the lottery" at one in two million.

BT's computerised filtering system meant that most callers met the busy signal at the local exchange without even getting an overseas line, so that only 50,000 reached the French network. But the Dutch international system crashed under the pressure.

The chaos brought almost universal condemnation for the French competition organisers, who were already under fire over the way they allocated tickets for the competition which begins on June 10. And accusations of discrimination were lent weight by the fact that while 60 operators had to cope with all the international calls, another 30 dealt exclusively with French callers on a separate line, giving them a massive advantage.



would be successful. Tony Blair raised the issue in the Commons, promising to do what he could to improve the allocation.

Other countries were equally furious. In Germany, the Social Democrats described the telephone sale as a scandal, while in Italy, the hotline number was so poorly publicised that nobody seemed to know about it.

A group of 30 members of the European Parliament said they were taking their own action against the World Cup organisers through the French courts. Led by Graham Watson, Liberal Democrat MEP for Somerset and North Devon, they had tried to stop yesterday's telephone sale, but failed to win an injunction late on Tuesday night. They now hope that a court hearing in Paris on May 20 will order the redistribution of a quarter of the tickets that have been allocated to French fans. The European Commission is also taking legal action against the CFC, but its challenge can end only in fines — and then after the competition has ended.

The tickets on offer yesterday were for first and second round games, excluding the opening match between Scotland and Brazil. Using a credit card, the tiny proportion of callers lucky enough to get through could buy up to four tickets per match and no more than 16 tickets in total.

All over Britain, fans had set their alarms for 6.55am and began dialling, the more impatiently than the rest.

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Football, page 52



Tony Cooper from Hertfordshire tries out England's official World Cup anthem before last night's Portugal friendly at Wembley

Two songs for fans who get to France

BY ALAN HAMILTON

ENGLAND soccer fans, already starved of tickets for France '98, are facing another dilemma: which of two rival World Cup anthems do they prefer?

Yesterday radio stations began playing the preferred official song, *How does it feel to be on top of the World*, in which the Spice Girls have a modest backing role. A video version was played at Wembley last night at the start of England's friendly against Portugal.

But the FA-approved chant will have to compete with an updated and re-

released version of Baddiel and Skinner's much praised effort for Euro '96, *Three Lions*.

New lyrics provided by the comedians mention Gazza being back on form. Paul Ince being ready for war and Alan Shearer being certain to score. The Spice Girls' words are more metaphysical by comparison and talk of goals we painted on the walls and of all our hopes and aspirations being the world inside a ball.

The official song is performed by an ad hoc collection of artists including Tommy Scott from the band Space and

Simon Fowler from Ocean Colour Scene. It was written by Ian McCulloch, of the band Echo and the Bunnymen. Expert reaction on first hearing was mixed. The presenter Chris Evans, late of the BBC and now of Virgin Radio, said: "It is a good pop song, but you can't sing it on the terraces. You can't really get your teeth into the lyrics."

Tim Glynn-Jones, editor of *Match Of The Day* magazine, said: "Like all these things, I don't think much of them on first hearing, but after three plays I find I've been carried along. I

think the official song will certainly compete on a par with *Three Lions* and it could be even bigger."

Chris Moyles, the Radio One disc jockey, said: "*Three Lions* will be huge on the terraces because everyone already knows it, but as for the charts, I don't know; it might be close."

David Baddiel, co-author of *Three Lions*, said of his revised version: "We have tried to update the lyrics to reflect a positive mood. It would be great to hear our new song sung at the World Cup by England fans — or at least the 200 that have got tickets."

Pay warning by Brown

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND JANET BUSH

GORDON BROWN delivered a stark warning to industry on pay last night as new figures showed salary increases in private companies surging worryingly ahead of inflation.

With private sector staff getting average rises last year of 5.2 per cent compared with the 2.4 per cent going to public service workers, the Chancellor called on the private sector to follow the example of the public sector.

He suggested that paying too much now could result in higher interest rates, fewer jobs and slower growth tomorrow — which would be the "worst of short-termism".

Addressing a CBI dinner he

added: "While the public sector has understood the need for moderation, today's wages figures suggest that private sector employers have some way to go." Everyone must show greater responsibility, he said.

Mr Brown also used his speech both to show exporters that he understood their concerns about the strong pound but to rule out intervention to bring down the value of sterling. Successful countries had not made a policy of "continuously devaluing their way to success," he said, but had travelled the long and hard road to high productivity. He also laid down a challenge

to everyone, the Government included, to bridge the gap in productivity between Britain and other leading economies. It was time, he said, to develop a sense of "national economic purpose, to agree a new long-term direction for Britain."

He promised that he and Margaret Beckett, the Trade President, would look "systematically and rigorously" at every barrier to higher productivity.

Mr Brown said that disappointing figures showing a productivity gap with France and Germany of around 20 to 30 per cent and a gap of 40 per cent with the United States

Continued on page 2, col 5

Scientists find 'superbug'

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A SUPERBUG resistant to all known antibiotics has been discovered by government scientists.

They have found a strain of bacteria that could prove deadly for the elderly. Aids sufferers and other vulnerable groups with weakened immune systems. The strain was identified by scientists during routine screening at the Public Health Laboratory Service in Colindale, north London.

Tests have shown that the strain of a bacterium called *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, is resistant to the current last-resort antibiotics called carbapenems. It causes a wide range of infections in people

with damaged immune systems. *P. aeruginosa* can cause lung infections in cystic fibrosis sufferers and potentially fatal septicemia in patients receiving treatment for leukaemia.

The laboratory service said the bacterium had been detected in one sample.

"Hospitals, for example, send in samples to our reference laboratory to ask us to identify the bacteria and to see what drugs they might be resistant to. We have identified a multi-drug resistant bacterium," he said. "Multi-drug resistance is very rare. But this is not to say that we are not concerned."

The discovery follows a report from the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology which said the routine use on farms of drugs that are related to human antibiotics should be banned. The fear is that drug resistance could be transferred from farms to the human population.

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Christopher Reeve

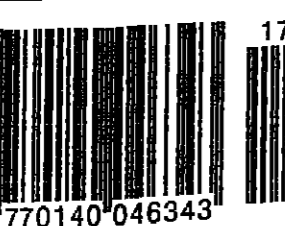
As Superman he became a top Hollywood actor.

Then in 1995, after a riding accident, he was paralysed.

Now, three years later, confined to a wheelchair, Christopher Reeve has told of his extraordinary recovery and how he is determined to walk again by his 50th birthday in six years' time.

Start reading his uplifting story of survival in The Times on Saturday.

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When canaries sing and no bad birds squawk

PRAISE be! Something interesting has occurred during Questions to the Welsh Secretary. Half way through a session tedious even by the standards of Welsh Questions, a Labour MP's mobile phone went off yesterday.

MPs' attention (and the Commons cameras) had been on the front bench, when there came a sudden, high-pitched trill.

Madam Speaker shot into the air. Nothing more enrages her. As she has explained in a Statement, she is reconciled to silent vibrations in hon Members' pockets, never to trilling noises, particularly loud ones. "Whose telephone is that?" she shrieked. Hundreds of eyes moved to one end of the chamber in

the right-hand corner, near the exit to the Aye lobby at the back.

Too late! All that could be seen was an empty stretch of green bench and a swinging door. The culprit had scurried. So fast had he dived that escape was complete before heads could swivel. The hastily deserted bench now contained only smug colleagues whose wide-eyed gaze said *Not me gov.*

A scattering of turned heads could have led an expert at spot-the-ball competitions to the exact point where the guilty MP had sat, but then we would have needed video-footage of the whole chamber prior to the escape — and there is no CCTV at Westminster.

Had Miss Boothroyd thought



back until somebody grassed on their Hon Friend wot dunnit? She decided better.

And we moved on, towards Prime Minister's Questions.

This sketch so often finds the questions nobody asked more absorbing than those which were aired.

Why did William Hague not ask about the secret shipment to Dounreay of nuclear waste?

Why did not a single Tory MP raise this?

How did Labour whips manage to stop any of their own side asking the question, leaving it to super-loyal Clive Soley, chairman of the parliamentary party, to bowl the Prime Minister the softest of balls, near the end, when he was ready in his crease?

Will Soley get a peerage?

Why did Tony Blair refer to drums of radioactive material which Britain was taking, but kilograms other nations had taken?

Why, when listing amounts, was there no reference to the nature of materials in question? Were these amounts all of the same stuff?

But, though sketchwriters may quibble, we must concede that this was a brilliantly executed defusing

of the row. All the right canaries sang, and all at the right time. None of the wrong birds made a squawk. Those who thought Mr Blair might have been ambushed yesterday afternoon were left winded by the skill and precision of his pre-emptive counter-strike.

Winded, and almost convinced.

But when Blair told us that an announcement about Dounreay was already being written when the news escaped, you could sense the collective, unarticulated *hmm*, and the thought processes of a score of journalists speculating on the possibilities of carbon-dating dried ink. Admiration at an administrator's dexterity grows as willingness to take it on trust shrinks.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tormented vegetarian dies at 24 of CJD

A woman who had been a strict vegetarian for the past 13 years died yesterday from the human form of "mad cow" disease. Clare Tomkins, 24, was found to be suffering in August last year from the new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease linked to eating infected beef. She died in the arms of her father, Roger, a company director, at the family's home at East Peckham, Kent, where she had been bedridden and in a comatose state, needing nursing 24 hours a day and being fed through a tube in her stomach.

Last month Mr Tomkins gave a moving and graphic account of the horrific progress of her illness to the BSE inquiry chaired by Sir Nicholas Phillips, describing how she had "howled like an injured animal". He said yesterday that she died peacefully.

Spanish trawler firms fined £1m

Spanish fishermen were ordered to pay fines and costs of £1 million for overfishing in British waters. Twelve companies and their trawler skippers admitted more than 100 offences of breaching European fishing regulations. The case comes after a three-year investigation of Spanish trawlers registered in Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, to qualify for British quotas. Their catches, which grossly exceeded legal amounts, were landed in Spain.

Smugglers face tough penalties

Persistent cross-Channel alcohol and tobacco smugglers are to have their vehicles automatically confiscated and magistrates will be urged to close down immediately clubs, pubs and restaurants caught selling cut-price smuggled drinks and cigarettes. An estimated £950 million in tax was lost as a result of cross-border smuggling in 1997.

London councils £4 bn in debt

Debts in five London Labour councils have risen to a total of almost £4 billion, the equivalent of a 2p in the pound cut in income tax. Islington has debts of £819 million as at March 31 last year, and Lambeth £825.4 million, according to a survey by the Liberal Democrats. The other councils are Hackney, Southwark and Lambeth.

Teachers' talks make progress

Talks aimed at averting industrial action by teachers over their paperwork were last night adjourned after "substantial progress" towards a solution. Ministers and teachers' leaders said they were confident agreement could be reached today when talks resume on producing guidance to be sent to all schools on cutting bureaucracy.

Phone pest jailed for nine years

A telephone sales executive was jailed for nine years at Maidstone Crown Court, after admitting seven death threats in calls to women. Allen Taylor, 30, asked for 62 similar charges to be taken into consideration. He made the horrifying calls to women all over the country including Leeds, Manchester, Exeter, and Bournemouth.

Student wins £2.3m damages

A student whose brilliant mind is trapped in a useless body after the unnecessary use of forceps during his birth won £2.325,000 damages. Peter Pearce, 27, is confined to a wheelchair and needs constant care but he gained a second-class degree in psychology at Nottingham University in 1993. Barnett Health Authority admitted liability.

Thatcher speaks of pessimism over Ulster peace deal

By James Landale
Political Reporter

CLINTON VISIT

BARONESS THATCHER yesterday became the most senior British politician to voice doubts over the Northern Ireland peace accord when she was reported to have criticised its proposals to release up to 400 paramilitary prisoners.

Lady Thatcher, who narrowly escaped death along with most of the Cabinet in the IRA bomb attack on the Grand Hotel in Brighton, is understood to have insisted that the prisoners were criminals and not political prisoners. Speaking at a conference in Barcelona, the former Prime Minister was reported by the Spanish newsagency EFE to have said she was "pessimistic" about the peace agreement hammered out on Good Friday.

The agency said she thought the deal was "weak" in certain points. She is reported to have pointed out that some of the prisoners who are set to be released were responsible for killing six of her Conservative colleagues at the Brighton party conference in 1984.

Lady Thatcher was also reported to have said it was "horrible" to think of Sinn Fein representatives entering Downing Street. Her remarks

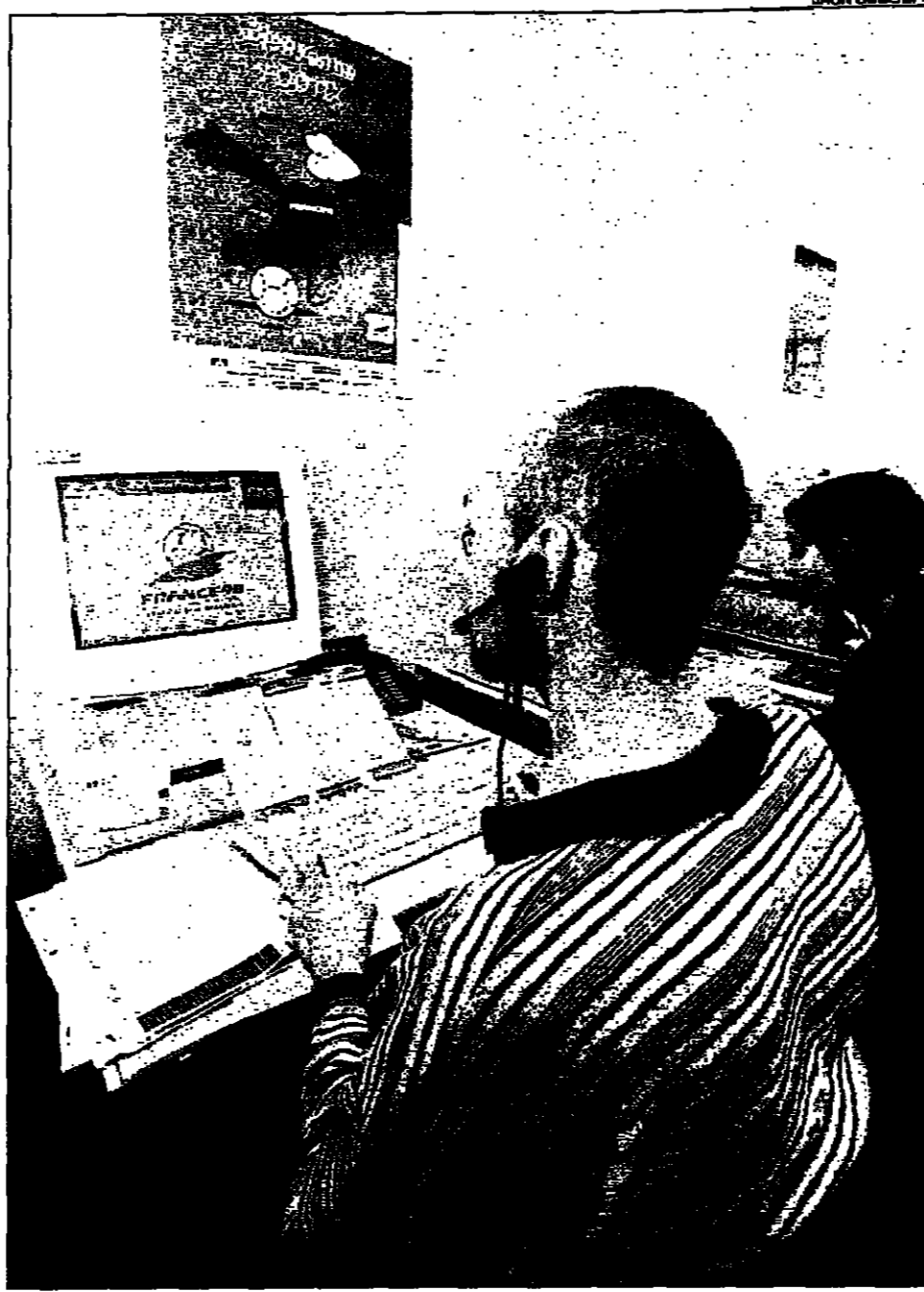
President Clinton may delay his visit to Northern Ireland until just after the May 22 referendum, Bertie Ahern, the Taoiseach, said yesterday. Mr Clinton would instead come before June's election campaign to the Northern Ireland assembly began. Jim Steinberg, a member of Mr Clinton's national security council, is to hold meetings in London, Belfast and Dublin at the weekend. The White House will make a decision when he reports back.

Irish Republic to decide in the referendum," one said.

Lady Thatcher's intervention came as Tony Blair sought to assuage Unionist fears over the early release of paramilitary prisoners and the decommissioning of weapons as part of the peace agreement. The Prime Minister insisted that prisoners would not be released if they still posed a threat to the public or if the organisations they represented continued to use violence.

He also made clear to MPs that no member of the planned Northern Ireland assembly associated with paramilitary organisations could hold executive office as a minister if they continued to use violence or failed to begin decommissioning.

The move came before MPs began rushing through legislation implementing parts of the peace agreement in a single Commons sitting expected to last until early this morning. Asked by William Hague, the Tory leader, for assurances about prisoners, Mr Blair said: "I can confirm that people who are a threat or attached to organisations that are carrying on violence will not be eligible under this proposal for early release. And those that are released are released only on licence."



A French operator armed with match details for the telephone sale yesterday

20m calls to World Cup lines

Continued from page 1

nous programming computers for faster redialling. In almost every case the result was disappointment.

One student got through after three hours, only to miss his chance because he did not have the right card. Kajit Ullah, 20, of Sheffield, tried to by tickets for five games with his Barclays Delta card. "The woman told me the cost would be £320 and asked me to read my card number out. But after keying it into her computer, she told me it was not recognised in France and I had to hang up."

In Southend, 76-year-old Maria-Pia Brown was woken at 7.01am by a caller seeking tickets. Her telephone number is the same as the first six digits of the French hotline and she was bombarded by local callers who had forgotten to dial 00 for an international line. After 90 minutes, BT put a block on her line.

Joanna Russell, a 27-year-old radio presenter from Derby, was luckier. After two hours of dialling, she got four tickets for England's opening game against Tunisia in Marseille. "I still can't believe I got through and I've actually got World Cup tickets," she said. "I feel like Charlie in *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* when he finds the golden ticket."

For those who think they may share Ms Russell's luck, there are 95,000 tickets still for sale. The hotline number is: 00 331 4987 5354.

Tax credit warning for single mothers

By Alexandra Freen
Social Affairs Correspondent

THOUSANDS of single mothers struggling to combine work with bringing up a family may find themselves excluded from the Government's childcare tax credit, a new study has shown.

The report, conducted by researchers at Oxford University, revealed that for many lone mothers, particularly those forced to accept low paid shift work or jobs with antisocial hours, informal arrangements with friends or family were the only practical childcare option.

But because they are not paying registered child-minders or professional nurseries to care for their children, the women may find they are ineligible for the new tax credit, which offers to subsidise formal childcare by up to £100 a week. Dr Mike Noble, co-author of the report, said the new Child Care Tax Credit may not be flexible enough to help the women who needed it the most.

The survey of 600 lone mothers, funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, found that the vast majority not only wanted to work, but were actively looking for work so that they could stop claiming Income Support.

Only a small minority of mostly older mothers believed it was more important to stay at home to bring up their children.

Uranium deal had to be kept a secret, says Blair

By Philip Webster and Michael Evans

THE Prime Minister yesterday defended the Government's decision to remain silent over a deal with President Clinton to send weapons-grade nuclear fuel from the former Soviet republic of Georgia to Scotland.

Emphasising that it was always the intention to reveal details of the shipment of uranium after it had arrived, Mr Blair underlined the Government's view that unveiling the agreement in advance might have resulted in terrorist action to seize the material.

Mr Blair said that they could not announce the decision for fear that rebels might take over the civil nuclear reactor at Tbilisi in Georgia, from where the cargo was being transported.

Throughout the day ministers and government officials went out of their way to justify the decision and the confidentiality surrounding it.

Official spokesmen revealed that a Commons written reply had been prepared some time ago for use to announce the shipment once it had arrived.

It was disclosed yesterday that the Government had first been approached in July about taking the consignment of about 9lbs of enriched uranium and nearly 2lb of spent fuel. Ministers agreed to the move before Mr Blair saw Mr Clinton in Washington in February.

Yesterday it became clear that the spent fuel would not

be reprocessed for about two years and would remain in storage. A spokesman for the UK Atomic Energy Agency said that reprocessing at Dounreay had been halted because of trouble with the equipment that first dissolves the nuclear material.

The spokesman said that Dounreay would have to make a safety case to the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate before the reprocessing could start again. He said the consignment was being sent to Dounreay instead of to Sellafield in Cumbria because the Scottish plant had expertise in dealing with nuclear reactor research material. Dounreay also had the capability to convert the unirradiated "fresh" uranium for subsequent medical use, such as to treat cancer.

Mr Blair told MPs that the total amount of intermediate-level nuclear waste that would be added to Dounreay was the equivalent of two drums. There were already 14,000 drums stored there, he said.

He said it was wrong to suggest Britain alone was taking action. "The US has already taken some 350kg of highly enriched uranium from Kazakhstan and Russia has taken some 137kg from Iraq since the Gulf War."

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Pay could hit loan rates warning

Continued from page 1

could no longer be ignored. There were great British success stories, world-class firms that were beating competition around the globe. But in manufacturing as a whole UK productivity was lower than in the other big economies; in the United States productivity was twice that in the UK in the food and beverages industry. Mr Brown said that everyone — business leaders, shareholders, employees, government — should work together to bridge the gap.

His message to exporters was: "I do

understand your worries over the current strength of sterling but what would be an even greater worry would be any risk of a return to the boom-bust we saw in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when one million manufacturing jobs were lost, over 150,000 businesses went under and thousands who faced mortgage misery and negative equity are even now not yet recovered from it."

Overall, average earnings growth in January was 4.5 per cent, unchanged from December's figure. But preliminary information for February shows a sharp

rise in earnings growth to 4.8 per cent. But this picture of apparently accelerating wage pressures was contradicted yesterday by the latest snapshot of pay settlements tracked by Industrial Relations Services. It said settlements were running at about 3.6 per cent in the three months up to February and showing no acceleration at all from January and December. This belief, coupled with a deceleration in the rate at which unemployment is falling, pushed the pound briefly below the symbolic DM3 level yesterday morning.

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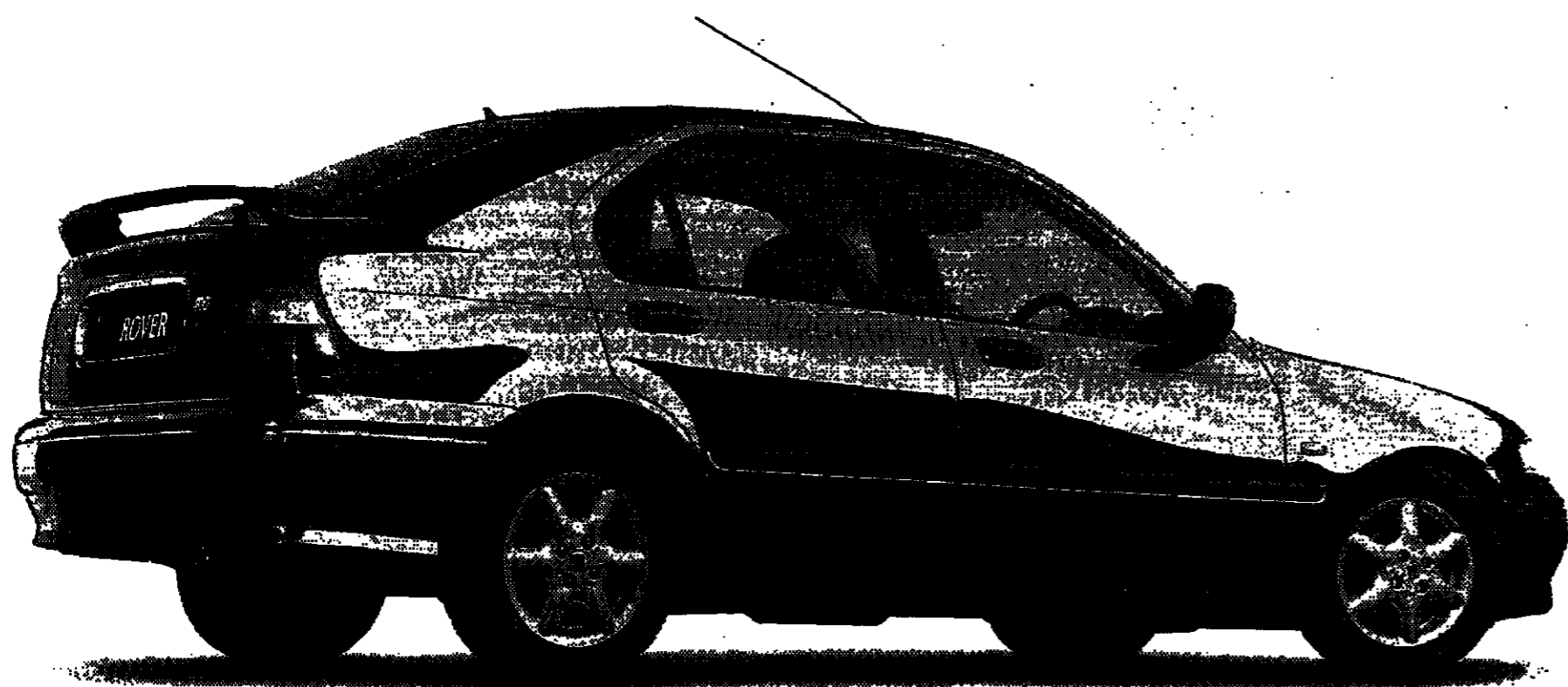
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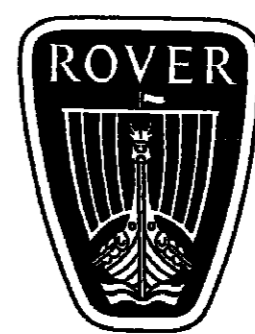


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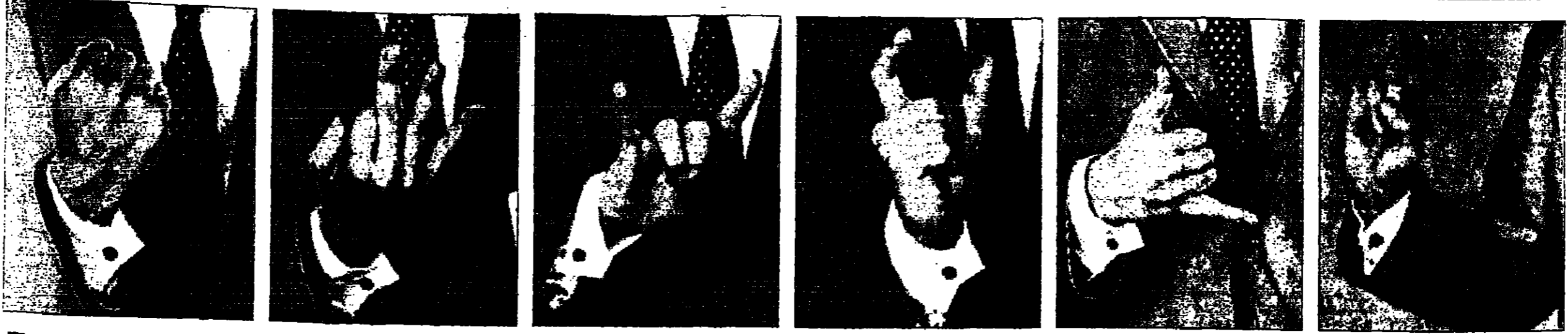
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Men with no future keep looking on the bright side of Liffe

BY ALAN HAMILTON AND RICHARD MILES

THEY are rich, rowdy and have a tendency to support Millwall. The traders on the floor of London's bearpit financial futures market are nothing if not optimists. They were still looking on the bright side yesterday when the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe) announced that it is to introduce computer-based trading by the end of next year. The ultimate consequence is that the City boys with the striped jackets, hand signals and hoarse banter will be all but gone by the millennium.

There are about 4,000 licensed traders on the exchange floor. Roger Crawshaw, 33, wearing a red blazer to show that he trades his own money rather than that of a big bank, said: "These blokes may disappear off the floor, but they won't vanish into thin air. A quarter will start trading on computer, a quarter will go back to driving cabs, a quarter will be out of work and a quarter will retire. Depends how much you've made in your short career, mate, dunnit? We got birds trading now. If they want to make the same kind of money, they'll have to go topless table-dancing."

Mr Crawshaw indicated that he would find himself an office, buy £40,000 of computer kit and continue as a new-age futures trader, possibly wearing a suit.

The futures traders are traditionally the sons of Essex market traders who have made good — and sometimes millions — by dealing in some of the financial industry's most complex and incomprehensible products. Their hero is Nick Leeson. Renowned for loud voices,



A doomed skill: bearpit action. But one trader said: "When one thing dies, they always invent something else"

rowdy behaviour, flash cars and the occasional ability to earn a wedge of 10k a day, the dealers on the Liffe have spent their lives shouting at each other and making hand signals on the floor of the exchange, in a system of trading called open outcry. It looks like a cross between East End barrow boys and race-course tic-tac men. Investments linked to cocoa, pork bellies, equities and whether it will snow on Christmas Day are their stock-in-trade. They barter by shouting out the price at which they are willing to buy or sell. They wear striped jackets so that other traders can see at a glance which firm or bank they represent.

The downside is that it is far more expensive than using computers: some estimate it costs three of four times as much. Deals on the floor of Liffe have to be routed through a number of clerks and back to the office. Computers dispense with this fuss and save on staff.

The switch is a reaction to growing competition from the Continent, particularly from arch-rival Germany, where the Frankfurt exchange operates entirely on computers. Matthew Caine, 25, a red-blazer trader who deals in Italian bond futures, said: "Inevitable, mate. Costs me £1,500 a week for my trader's licence. You can deal on computer through Frankfurt for £750 a month. Not a bad thing to be sitting behind a screen. Gets a bit too excitable on the floor sometimes."

David Kyte, a derivatives trader who recently resigned from Liffe's board in protest at its apparent inability to modernise, said it was time for the rough boys to hang up their blazers: "Trade will be by mouse not mouth."

The switch heralds the end for one of the few remaining symbols of the flashy "loads-a-money" era in the 1980s. Derivatives traders can earn huge pay through commission on deals often valued in billions. It is reported that one former carpet-fitter from Kent who set up his own dealing

THE SIGNALS

TO BUY: the knuckles must be facing outwards and the hand moving towards you, as if patting yourself on the chest. To sell: pretend you are pushing something away, with the knuckles facing towards you. Now you need to establish a price. The prices of contracts, which constantly fluctuate, are shown on screens above the pit.

SETTING THE PRICE: depending on whether you are setting a price for sale or purchase, the hands will be either facing towards or away from the body (see above). All price signals are made with the hand below the chin and in front of the chest to distinguish them from quantity signals. Prices represent the last two digits of the full prices on the screens. A raised first finger is not an insult: it means one. So if the full price on the screen is £10,000, you are trying to buy or sell at £10,001. Use fingers in the upright position to go from 1 to 5, then turn them sideways to go from 6 to 9. A raised fist means 10.

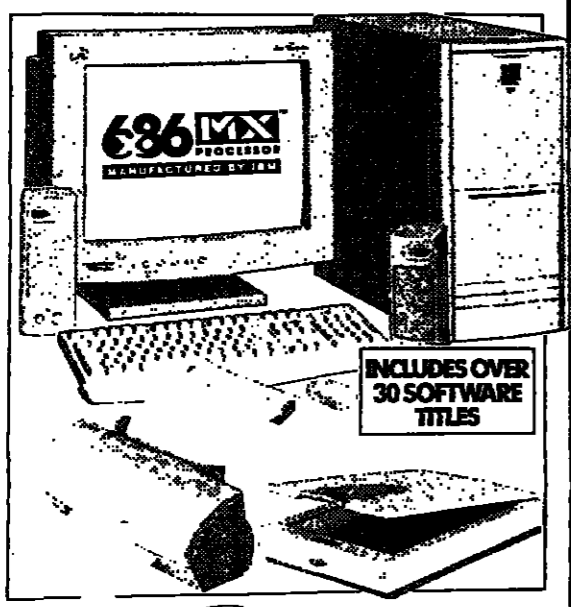
SETTING A QUANTITY: you now need to tell fellow traders how many contracts you want to buy or sell. The same rules as the above apply, although hand signals should be made at chin level. To go over 10, put the hand over the face, so five played fingers over the face means 50 and a fist means 100.

SETTING A DELIVERY TIME: there are four main delivery months: March, June, September and December. Put the fingers into a rabbit sign (two fingers sticking up, middle fingers making an 'O' with the thumb, at chest height) for March. For December, make the hand flat.

RED AND GREEN MONTHS: if a month contract is red, it means that it lasts for more than a year. For example, a rabbit sign with arm to the side of the body means red March. A green month is a contract lasting between two and three years. Putting the hand flat on the head means green December. Making a television aerial sign above the head means green March.

CHECKING: to check, first make a flicking motion with the forearm, then go through the deal quickly once more.

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Sacked organist to appeal to Queen

PETER NICHOLLS

Ruth Gledhill reports on an acrimonious dispute that has shocked church music circles



Martin Neary denies allegations by the dean and chapter that he and his wife took advantage of their position for their own financial gain

THE organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey was dismissed yesterday after they accused him of gross misconduct.

Martin Neary and his wife, Penny, the concerts secretary, were accused by Dr Wesley Carr and the Abbey Chapter of taking advantage of their position "to further their own financial gain".

Dr Neary, who denies all the allegations, will appeal to the Queen, who is Visitor of the Abbey, a Royal Peculiar under her direct jurisdiction. She is expected to refer the appeal to the Lord Chancellor.

Dr Neary and his wife must now quit their home in the abbey cloisters. Their salaries were stopped from yesterday.

The acrimonious dispute has shocked the world of church music, where Dr Neary, 58, at the pinnacle of his profession, is regarded as a man of the highest integrity and musical ability. He was appointed an LVO by the Queen for his musical direction at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Dr Neary was suspended in March after the abbey auditors raised questions about a company, Neary Music Ltd, that appeared in the abbey accounts but which had been set up last year without the knowledge of the dean and chapter.

At a private hearing two weeks ago, described by Frank

Field, the Minister for Welfare Reform, as a "kangaroo court", Dr Neary failed to convince the dean of the merits of his case. Mr Field accused the dean of bullying.

Dr Carr yesterday denied that he was a bully and said he could act only in accordance with the will of the Abbey Chapter. "Dr Neary was not open with the dean and chapter over his using of the abbey name and its choir," he said. "Dr Neary behaved in such a way that it is now impossible for the dean and chapter to trust him."

The dean said Neary Music had been set up in April 1997 without the knowledge of the abbey authorities to handle choir contracts and retain surplus funds. Mrs Neary was the sole director and Dr Neary the company secretary.

"It was used to handle monies for the abbey choir's Oslo tour, concerts at the Barbican and the National Gallery in 1997," Dr Carr said. "It was also party to a recording contract. In addition it received fixing fees for abbey events."

Canon Michael Middleton, the abbey treasurer, decided the company represented a conflict of interest. "No one knew that fixing fees were being taken by Mrs Neary on abbey events," said Dr Carr, disclosing also that the company was found to have paid Mrs Neary a £1,500 dividend. He said: "It is not about the

money. It is about what the money represents.

"We run our affairs here on business lines, but at the same time we are a religious organisation, a college where we operate on the basis of trust. It is far more serious when that trust is eroded, than the question of a few pounds."

Dr Carr said that the future of the choir school was secure. Plans a decade ago to broaden

its intake or merge it with another school were no longer under consideration.

The allegations were denied yesterday by Dr Neary and his wife, who said that they found their situation distressing. They insisted they had never sought to conceal the existence of Neary Music. All concerts, tours and recordings undertaken by the choir had been formally approved by the

dean and chapter, they said. Dr Neary, organist at the abbey since 1988, said he and his wife "absolutely" denied that they had acted with any lack of honesty.

Dr Neary said: "Although I am concerned about the effect of these events on the choir, and particularly the choristers, I have every confidence that it will continue to maintain its high reputation."

He said that he and his wife intended to appeal. His appeal would go to the Queen. Mrs Neary can go to an industrial tribunal, or has the right to a hearing before two cathedral canons.

In a letter on headed notepaper, faxed to parents of choristers, in which he deleted his title "Organist and Master of the Choristers" with a stroke of the pen, Dr Neary told the

parents that their support had been an enormous strength. He continued: "We categorically refute the allegations. I am sure you will understand how distressing we find the entire situation. Please send your sons our very best wishes. We hope that, despite everything which has happened, they and you will continue to give outstanding service to the abbey."

Woman 'confessed to killing her baby'

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A SINGLE mother confessed to her new lover that she had shaken her baby son to death the previous year while trying to keep the child quiet, a court was told yesterday.

Allison Woollett, 23, from Cheriton, Kent, denies the manslaughter of three-month-old Bradley in February 1994, when she was just 18. Adele Williams, for the prosecution, told the jury at Southwark Crown Court, South London: "This is a case of a young woman who was unable to cope with the demands of a crying baby on her own."

Bradley, she said, was born five weeks premature in November 1993. Ms Woollett then lived with her parents in Folkestone. On Sunday, February 20, 1994, after her parents had gone out, an ambulance was called to the house when Bradley stopped breathing. He died on the Friday. A pathologist discovered that Bradley's brain had been "severely softened and swollen" and concluded he had suffered a blow to the head or that his head had struck a hard surface.

After questioning, Woollett was not charged with any offence but, in 1995, she began going out with Damian Trump, and that autumn "had a series of conversations with him in which she confessed she had killed Bradley by shaking him and slapping his head", Miss Williams said. The trial continues.

Bishop urges repeal of beef-on-bone law

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A BISHOP joined the clamour yesterday for repeal of the Government's beef-on-the-bone regulations amid growing doubts over the ban's enforceability.

The Bishop of Leicester, the Right Rev Tom Butler, urged ministers to think again after a Scottish court on Tuesday threw out the first prosecution brought for breach of the ban. Speaking on *Thought for the Day* on Radio 4's *Today* programme, the bishop linked the ban to a general lack of understanding of the needs of farming and the countryside.

He poked fun at Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, saying he feared for the survival of farm animals in the countryside and now understood how the dinosaurs had become extinct — because "the Government of the day had brought in a dinosaur-on-the-bone ban". The bishop told

listeners that the health risk from eating beef on the bone was widely believed to be "minuscule", and the "British people, mostly law-abiding, do not like laws they feel make little sense".

Afterwards the bishop, who is soon to move to Southwark, defended his remarks as theological commentary. "If the ban turns out to be legally flawed and inoperable, I very much hope that the Government will abandon it," he said.

The Ministry of Agriculture said that Dr Cunningham, who was preparing to fly to China on a trade mission, had nothing to add to an earlier statement that the ban would remain in place to protect public health.

Tony Blair yesterday rejected calls led by William Hague, the leader of the Conservatives, for the ban to be lifted. He declared that the ban,

introduced on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer Sir Kenneth Calman, must stay until there was evidence that the BSE threat was receding.

In Edinburgh the Crown Office said it was still considering whether to appeal against the ruling by the Selkirk Sheriff Court, which dismissed charges against Jim Sutherland, a hotelier and farmer. The court found the regulation was "defective" and a "manifest absurdity".

Mr Sutherland yesterday invited Dr Cunningham to a roast beef dinner. "He is invited to a family meal, which is not covered by the ban, so, yes, beef-on-the-bone would be served," said Mr Sutherland who runs the Lodge Hotel at Carfraemill in the Borders.

Three other prosecutions are pending in England.

Leading article, page 23

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Resistant animals 'could carry BSE'

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY

ANIMALS thought to be resistant to "mad cow" disease may be secretly harbouring the infective agent, according to new research.

Experiments with mice and hamsters in America have shown that the agent which causes BSE, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, could persist undetected for long periods in resistant species.

The findings raise the worrying possibility that poultry and pigs which had eaten BSE-contaminated feed could be infected with the disease while not falling ill themselves.

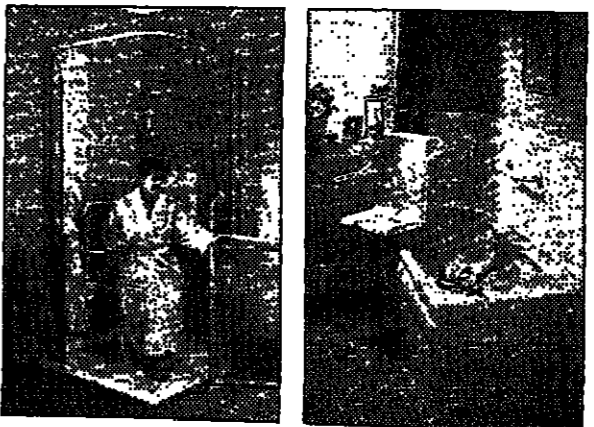
The research, by Richard Race and Bruce Chesebro, of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Hamilton, Montana, involved injecting the infectious agent for hamster scrapie — a disease similar to BSE — into the brains of mice.

Mice are highly resistant to the hamster disease, and as expected did not develop any symptoms. But the scientists found that a year after the mice received the injections their brain and spleen tissue could cause the disease when put back into hamsters.

Writing in the journal *Nature*, the scientists acknowledge that, so far, there was no evidence for the secondary transmission of BSE from resistant species to more susceptible ones.

But they add: "The results presented here would strongly favour a decision to stop feeding ruminant-derived products to all animal species."

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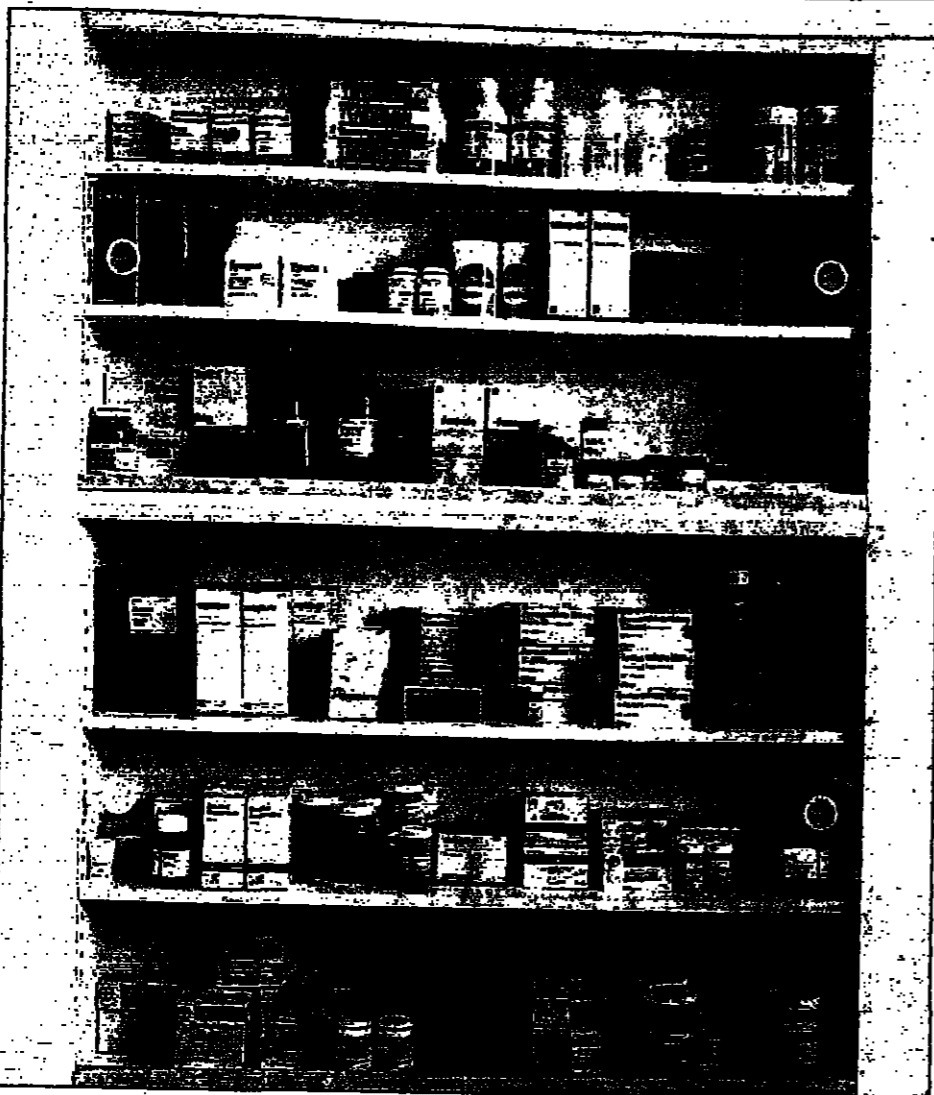
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God by Hirst. Each shelf represents a part of the body, from the head down

Healthy interest in Hirst's chest

By VICTORIA FLICKNER AND PETER FORSTER

A MEDICINE cabinet stocked with approximately £500 worth of prescribed drugs — including cold sore creams, laxatives and epilepsy pills — was sold at auction yesterday for £188,500. It was the creation of the artist Damien Hirst.

The piece, entitled *God*, sold for more than three times its estimate and was a record auction price for the work of the artist best known for his pickled livestock.

At the auction of contemporary art in London, a sculpture by the Cuban artist Felix Gonzalez-Torres consisting of 50lb of boiled sweets worth about £100 strewn across the floor fetched £106,000. Viewers of the piece are encouraged to "interact" with the art and eat a sweet.

At the sale at Christie's lots were shown on video screens for the first time. The sale raised more than £2.8 million.

Traditionalist critics yesterday poured scorn on the sale, accusing the modern art busi-

Critics of a sale of modern art say people have been deluded by the hype of Cool Britannia

ness of succumbing to collective hysteria. David Lee, editor of *Art Review*, said he was astonished by the sums being paid: "It is a case of the endless hype of Cool Britannia deluding people into thinking this is art. There are enough fashionable, gullible and rich people to buy this rubbish. These people are shopping, not collecting. It's all about buying up a brand, like a fashionable handbag. It seems the quality of the work is neither here nor there. People are seduced by this crap."

Each shelf of Hirst's medicine cabinet relates, from the top down, to the body. On the

top, is a tube of Zovirax, a cream for cold sores. Further down are Imodium anti-diarrhoea tablets and Senokot laxative.

Its title is not, as it has been read by some, an existential statement. Hirst picked the first word of song titles by the 1970s punk band the Sex Pistols — this one from *God Save the Queen*.

In the catalogue notes Hirst is quoted as saying: "I've always seen medicine cabinets as bodies, but also like a cityscape or civilisation, with some sort of hierarchy within it. It's also like a contemporary museum of the Middle Ages. In 100 years this will look like an old apothecary."

Matthew Slotover, editor of *Frieze* magazine, was more understanding of the prices being paid. "Art is worth what people are prepared to pay for it," he said. "You can reduce anything to its essentials. A film is nothing more than bits of plastic if you want to look at it like that."

The Hirst medicine cabinet work was bought by the Helly Nahmad Gallery in London.

IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

What ho, Lou! **LOU REED'S** unlikely passion for P.G. Wodehouse



Dark horse



... and in **WEEKEND**

What did **LINDA** do for the veggie cause?

Karate man punched judge after traffic row

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

A FORMER karate champion was jailed for four months yesterday for attacking a judge who hooted at him in a traffic jam. Judge Jeremy Duerden, 49, was punched repeatedly by Sean Patrick, 35, and received a cut lip and bloodied nose.

Patrick, who represented Britain three times at karate, admitted assault. Bury magistrates were told that Judge Duerden was driving home from Bury County Court, where he is the senior judge, when he found himself stuck in the afternoon rush hour.

Finding his way blocked, he hooted at the car ahead, which contained Patrick, his wife and their young child. Patrick made a V-sign at Judge Duerden, who approached the car ahead.

A brief exchange ended with Patrick punching the judge, who was speaking at the passenger window. When Mr Duerden went to the back of the car to take down its number, Patrick followed and punched him twice more before driving off.

John Bridgwood, representing Patrick, said: "We are dealing with common assault based around a person's loss of control. If he had stayed in his car, this would not have happened, and one could say that if the occupant of the other vehicle had stayed in his car, the offence might not have been committed."

Patrick was given a further 21 days in prison after admitting unpaid fines totalling £3,000.

Malaria protection played part in suicide

By A CORRESPONDENT

A BARRISTER killed himself after suffering depression and nightmares linked to the anti-malarial drug Lariam, an inquest was told yesterday.

Francis Macleod Matthews, 37, jumped to his death from the roof of a mansion apartment after experiencing bad dreams and anxiety over his work. He had earlier telephoned his wife of 18 months to assure her that he was fine. At the time he was writing his will at his solicitors, Westminster Coroner's Court was told.

Mr Macleod Matthews, from Notting Hill, West London, had been taking Lariam after a trip to East Africa last September. His widow, Vanessa, told the hearing that although her husband stopped taking the anti-malarial drug in November he continued to be troubled by bad dreams.

On the day of his death he had initially telephoned her to say he was not feeling well and would come home later that evening, but then called her later to say he was feeling much better. He then travelled to an apartment block in Westminster where his brother had once lived and threw himself off the roof. His body was found later that day.

Barbara Borek, a pathologist, said the possible side-effects of Lariam were nightmares, anxiety and depression for up to 12 weeks after stopping the drug.

Recording a verdict of suicide, Paul Knapman, the coroner, said: "It is more likely than not that the Lariam played some part."

French feeling Diana 'guilt'

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE mother of Diana, Princess of Wales, said yesterday that she had received hundreds of letters from French people who felt "guilty" that her daughter died in France.

Since the crash in Paris on August 31, which killed the Princess, Dodi Fayed and their driver, Henri Paul, letters have been arriving at Frances Shand Kydd's home on the Isle of Seil, near Oban, Argyll and Bute, and at Kensington Palace.

Yesterday Mrs Shand Kydd, 62, said that, instead of feeling guilt, the French should be "justifiably proud" of their "fantastic medical services" which cared for her daughter before her death.

"I have had hundreds of letters and cards from French people and I am very anxious about their feelings. The people of France seem to feel a sense of guilt that Diana should die on their soil. They should not feel that way, they have nothing to feel guilty about."

She added: "They should feel justifiably proud of their fantastic medical ser-



Shand Kydd: praised medical services

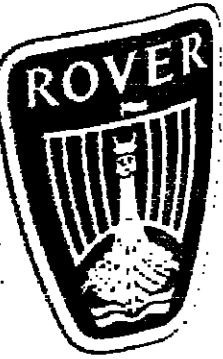
vices. My knowledge comes first hand from those who tried to save my daughter. She could not have been in better, more skilled or caring hands anywhere."

Mrs Shand Kydd, who has recently returned from a charitable pilgrimage to Lourdes with handicapped children, said she had "total faith" in the French legal system and would accept the findings of the investigation once it is complete.

She plans to work for the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust, which organised the trip, as a personal dedication to her daughter's "spirit of giving".

HOW WOULD OTHER AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURERS DESIGN YOUR HOME?

AIRBUS



Looted stately home statue was found buried in garden

By A CORRESPONDENT

DIGGING for clues in an English country garden proved a £360,000 revelation for detectives on the trail of stolen stately home antiques.

They unearthed from a deep hole the treasured bronze statue of an 8ft tall Indian and his dog that had been plundered from the estate owned by the family of Guy Fawkes.

It was one of a pair of figures cast in Paris in 1937 by the American sculptor Paul Tomasso. The other one now stands in the Minnesota National Park.

Graham Reeds, for the prosecution, described to York Crown Court yesterday "a fascinating and interesting case" involving Paul Tomasso, an antique dealer.

He said Mr Tomasso, 57, was "a fence for high-class, high-value garden ornaments", which were stolen over many years from grand houses throughout the North. Mr Tomasso, of Gledhow, Leeds, denies 13 offences of handling stolen goods between 1985 and 1996. They were said to be mostly antique urns, statues, fountains and garden furniture worth many thousands of pounds.

Mr Reeds alleged the items



Paul Tomasso, John Brennan, the High Sheriff, and George Horton Fawkes

belonged to the High Sheriff of West Yorkshire, John Brennan, who lives at Brenaire Park in Rawdon, near Leeds; the Burton Agnes Hall Preservation Trust at Driffield, East Yorkshire; the National Trust at Temple Sowerby, near Penrith; North Yorkshire County Hall in Northallerton from where a statue of Mercury vanished; Viscount Ingleby at Osmotherley, North Yorkshire; and George Horton Fawkes, of Farnley Hall, Leeds, a descendant of Guy Fawkes.

Others were owned by individuals with private country estates in the North. He said that in May 1996 detectives executed a search

warrant at Princess Lodge, Whitley, near York, the home of a friend of Mr Tomasso, who had been allowed to store antiques to be sold in the course of his trade.

Mr Reeds added: "What they found was a revelation. They dug a hole in the garden and in that hole was the most valuable piece of outdoor sculpture imaginable. It was an 8ft tall figure of amazing weight and you can just imagine it standing outside a museum."

The *Indian and Dog* was stolen in 1989 from Farnley Hall, owned by descendants of Guy Fawkes since the 14th century.

Mr Reeds told the jury that

the other casting of *The Indian and Dog* at the National Park in Minnesota was valued at \$600,000 (£360,000).

He added: "But this one was buried at Whitley in 1994 as a precautionary measure to make sure nobody found it. Such was its unique quality and worth that it would have given the game away about what Mr Tomasso was up to. He was handling stolen goods — very important pieces of garden statuary and he knew them to be stolen."

Almost all the other missing garden statuary was found in an outbuilding at Princess Lodge. After a display put on by police, several owners came forward. Mr Reeds said:

"Much of it had been in family homes for generations and people knew what was theirs when they saw it again."

When he was interviewed by police, Mr Tomasso is alleged to have told them he bought the goods from Irish gypsies, at a country house sale and from various other unidentified people.

Mr Brennan, the High Sheriff of West Yorkshire, told the court that two cast urns disappeared from his front lawn in 1985. "They were there when I went to bed, but had gone in the morning."

They and many of the other heavy items were carried into court as exhibits by two porters and Mr Brennan said: "I recognise them. I was brought up with them."

Mr Horton Fawkes told the court the bronze statue of an Indian with his dog was commissioned in 1937 by his late father-in-law, who had known the sculptor Paul Tomasso, to stand outside his Paris home from 1937.

The statue of the Indian, holding a bow and arrow and with a dog, was moved to Yorkshire in 1982 but was stolen in December 1989. He identified it at Harrogate police station.

The trial continues.



A statue of Mercury that had disappeared from County Hall in Northallerton

Domingo calls for curb on Royal Opera prices

By PETER FOSTER

PLACIDO DOMINGO said yesterday that he would insist upon seats at the Royal Opera House being as cheap as possible next time he sings there. The Spanish star, who as one of the Three Tenors has contributed to the popularisation of opera, was in London to announce details of an appearance as a conductor with the Royal Opera on a visit to Germany.

Covent Garden seats can cost up to £275. Last June, Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, said he felt that, after his £78 million lottery grant, the Royal Opera should have a wider range of cheaper tickets and should arrange more

television broadcasts and relay to the Covent Garden piazza.

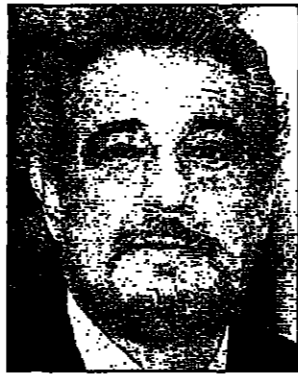
Speaking on Radio 4's *Today* programme, Domingo said that he appreciated how expensive Covent Garden tickets were when he performed there: "I hope that will be changed. I will insist when I come to Covent Garden to sing next time that the prices will be kept as low as possible."

Domingo, 57, has worked with the Royal Opera for more than 25 years. In June at Baden-Baden, he will conduct a production of Verdi's *La Traviata* in place of Sir Georg Solti, who died last September. The tenor said that

Covent Garden should follow the example of American houses and look to private investors if government subsidy was insufficient: "In the US it works wonderfully. Most of the opera houses are done by private people, but it doesn't make it more expensive."

He also rejected suggestions that big stars pushed up the price of tickets: "I don't make £1 more. It's a pity, because the public suffers. The public can't come to the opera because it is too expensive. My view is that, if you want to charge £250 a seat to the corporate people in the stalls, make sure there is real access elsewhere."

His comments were backed



Domingo says he will insist on cheaper tickets

by Nicholas Payne, departing director of the Royal Opera, who said he wanted to see at least half the tickets priced at £40 or less, with a top price of £90: "Given that it costs £35 to see a Premiership football match, about the same for a West End musical and £50 for a top ticket at the Coliseum, £90 for a top ticket at Covent Garden seems reasonable."

Mother's lover accused of torturing girl to death

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A GIRL aged seven was imprisoned in her bedroom and tortured to death over four days by her mother's lover after an argument over whether she had washed her hands, a court was told yesterday.

Suzanne Rarity was found on a mattress at her home in Moss Side, Manchester, with more than a hundred injuries inflicted with a kitchen fork, hairbrush and curtain rail. The youngster, shown in photographs as a smiling, gap-toothed child, was eventually killed by blows to her chest, stomach and bottom, causing bruising so severe that she died from massive internal bleeding, Manchester Crown Court was told.

Charles Garside, QC, for the prosecution, said that the torture meted out to her was horrifying and systematic. Paul Gaye, 31, denies murdering Suzanne on June 20 last year.

She lived with her mother, a cleaner. Mr Gaye had moved into the house in April and, said Mr Garside, took over the care of the children to such an extent that "it was the defen-

dant who said what was done and what was not done". Suzanne's mother, Angela, was under his thumb.

About a week before Suzanne's death, the remote control unit for the video recorder was broken. Mr Garside said that Mr Gaye demanded to know if she had done it and beat her with a length of curtain rail.

On June 16, Mr Gaye decided the family would go on a shopping trip. Before they left the house, he asked Suzanne whether she had washed her hands. She said that she had, but he decided she was lying. Mr Garside said that he locked Suzanne in her bedroom. He had the only set of keys and kept her a prisoner until her death four days later.

"He reduced the contact between Suzanne and her mother and anybody else to an absolute minimum," Mr Garside told the jury. "He took Suzanne meals and drinks and escorted her to the lavatory. He would only allow her mother occasional glimpses of her. She was repeatedly and severely attacked with a variety of weapons." These

included a kitchen fork with which Mr Gaye allegedly inflicted neat rows of puncture marks on her body. A lavatory brush was used on her hair so violently that it was ripped out by the roots and a stick left her with injuries "literally from head to foot".

Suzanne's body was found by Mr Gaye at 7.30am on Saturday, June 20. He told her mother but it was not until 36 hours later that police were told. The jury was shown a 32-minute video of the house. Suzanne's body was curled up on a mattress on the floor. She was wearing pyjamas.

Her mother told the court that she had become scared of Mr Gaye, who had taken over her life and told her not to see relatives. He stopped Suzanne from attending school and intended to move the family to Wales.

She said that, in the five days leading up to Suzanne's death, she had seen her daughter twice. She would shout through the bedroom door to ask if she was all right and Suzanne would shout back: "I'm fine."

The trial continues today.

Pair deny stealing bluebells from wood

By A CORRESPONDENT

TWO men were caught plundering bluebell bulbs from an ancient wood by a vigilant off-duty policeman, a court was told yesterday.

Detective Constable Geoffrey Peck noticed a man carrying two full sacks and a fork walking out of Keeper's Wood to a van parked at the roadside near Thursford, Norfolk.

Police returned to the private wood the next evening last August and found Maurice Crawley, 35, and Leonard Read, 61, in the same van. In the back were garden forks, two black plastic trays and four 18in sacks crammed with bulbs. Fakenham magistrates were told.

They deny handling stolen bluebell bulbs, uprooting a wild plant, stealing bulbs and aiding and abetting each other to uproot a wild plant, contrary to the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act. The trial continues.

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Victimised inspector wants £250,000

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A POLICE inspector is seeking up to £250,000 from Lincolnshire Police after the force was found guilty of suspending her to prevent complaints about sex discrimination.

Cydena Fleming won an industrial tribunal case earlier this year after the force was criticised for its handling of her sex discrimination case. The tribunal found that she had been victimised.

Yesterday the force and lawyers for Ms Fleming confirmed that the two sides had failed to agree on a financial package. The inspector, who was suspended on full pay for nearly three years, was reinstated after the case but left the force to join Humberside Police.

Lawyers for Ms Fleming have asked the force for damages of more than £80,000, plus a large part of her costs, which amounted to £350,000. The force is understood to have offered about £35,000 and to have refused to pay any costs; its own costs are also put at £350,000. No apology has been given.

The two sides are expected to go back to the tribunal in June for an adjudication on the package.

Ms Fleming was suspended after secretly taping colleagues at Gainsborough police station to prove allegations of sexual harassment. The force was cleared of harassment, but the tribunal decided that she had been harassed by individual colleagues.

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Pollution is biggest influence on climate

By Nick Nuttall, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE rising temperatures of the late 20th century are firmly linked to man-made causes, according to American scientists.

Whereas natural phenomena, such as volcanic eruptions, changes in solar irradiation and El Niño, shaped the weather for much of the past 500 years, recent climate changes have been caused by rising concentrations of carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels, research published in *Nature* says. Three of the past eight years — 1990, 1995 and 1997 — have been the hottest on Earth for at least 600 years.

Michael Mann, of the University of Massachusetts and one of the research team, writes: "The anomalous warmth of several recent years appears likely to be related to human influences on climate." Herman Zimmerman, programme director at the National Science Foundation's atmospheric sciences division, which funded the research, said yesterday: "The balance

of evidence now firmly supports an important human influence on the global climate system. This is a serious problem for people everywhere and needs to be addressed at all levels of government."

The findings come amid growing concern that the United States is unlikely to be able to deliver its commitments, agreed in Kyoto, Japan, in December to cut emissions of greenhouse gases by 7 per cent. The Republican Senate is refusing to fund President

Clinton's \$3.8 billion package of energy-efficiency schemes to deliver the cuts.

The *Nature* study, which has plotted the planet's temperature to a fraction of a degree, has used a range of natural climate indicators, including tree rings, coral, ice cores, ice melt and rainfall, coupled with more recent readings, to chronicle the climate back to 1400.

Natural records clearly detail the "year without a summer" of 1816, which was probably influenced by the

dust and aerosols fired into the atmosphere by the eruption of Mount Tambora in Indonesia.

The climatic upheavals of 1791, due to a strong El Niño of the kind that has triggered droughts and heavy rainfalls in parts of the globe this year, are also recorded.

Gabriele Hegerl, of the University of Washington, who has reviewed the research, says in *Nature* that this reconstructed record indicates that, for the Northern Hemisphere, "the warming for the 20th century is unprecedented at least since 1400".

Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere were now about 25 per cent higher than pre-industrial levels and were rising sharply. "It seems that increases in greenhouse gases have been the main force in the 20th century, whereas natural changes in solar irradiance and volcanism dominate the early part of the record," he says.

CRACKING A PROBLEM WITH EGGSHELLS

The eggshells of some of Britain's songbirds have been getting thinner during the past 150 years. The cause is being attributed to acid rain contaminating the soil and reducing the calcium in the birds' diets. Rhys Green, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, has been studying more than 1,000 shells housed in museum collections. Mr Green, whose findings are published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, has found a steady fall in thickness of up to 11 per cent. Whether such thinning is harming bird populations is unknown. He said that the eggshells of blackbirds appeared to have been thickening since the passing of the Clean Air Act.



Baa codes will foil rustlers

Simon Bland, 33, who has had more than £50,000 worth of sheep stolen in five years from his 120-acre fell farm near Penrith, Cumbria, checking his herd with his fiancée, Jane Barker. They plan to monitor the animals with microchips linked to scanners at auctioneers or a satellite tracking system. Dr Barker, 39, an environmental scientist at

Bradford University, suggested the scheme after working with an expert in satellite technology. She said: "Microchips are inserted discreetly somewhere in the non-edible part of a sheep. It is a quick, simple operation and doesn't hurt the animal." The project is funded by the university and the couple are seeking an EU grant and sponsorship.

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Scientists note brain power of musicians

By Nick Nuttall

SKILLED musicians have an area of the brain that is up to 25 per cent larger than those who have never played an instrument, research has shown.

The region is part of the cortex where nerve cells group together according to pitch, much like notes on a piano's keyboard are arranged in ascending order.

The researchers, based at the University of Munster in Germany, have been imaging these "tonotopic maps" in the cortex of musicians and non-musicians as they listen to a series of up to 35 notes. They found that, in the most experienced players, the area stimulated was up to a quarter larger than in non-musicians.

The scientists also found a link between the age at which a person starts learning an instrument and the size of the musical area. Musicians who began playing aged nine or younger had the largest tonotopic maps as adults.

The findings, published in the journal *Nature*, have been made by a team at the university led by Christo Pantev. They studied 20 musicians from the conservatory in Munster, some of whom had perfect or instinctive pitch and others who had relative pitch. The musicians had been playing for between 23 and 13 years.

Nine said the piano was their primary instrument and 11 favoured strings or woodwind. A group of students who had never played were also screened.

The scientists found no difference between those with perfect pitch and those with relative or learned pitch.

The researchers believe that it is not just an area of the cortex that is enlarged in musicians. The team previously pinpointed that the planum temporale of the left hemisphere was also bigger.

Plan for city homes could save countryside

By Our Environment Correspondent

THREE quarters of the new homes said to be needed in the next two decades could be built in towns and cities, saving an area of countryside the size of east Dorset, according to a report commissioned by environmentalist and heritage groups.

It concludes that, with imaginative planning, inner cities could accommodate a bigger slice of the 4.4 million to five million extra homes needed by 2016. The Government has set a target of 60 per cent of the new homes for urban areas, with the rest earmarked for the green belt and farmland. Charities such as the Civic Trust have argued that the capacity of towns and cities is far greater than the Government believes.

Simon Festing, of Friends of the Earth, commissioned the report with Wise, a new charity concerned with conservation and heritage. He said yesterday that the report was not unrealistic: "It envisages using only a fraction of each option, thus avoiding building on valuable urban greenfields or wildlife areas, and avoiding any town cramming of existing residential areas."

The report estimates that, if five million homes are needed, more than 2.2 million can be built on brownfield or recycled land sites. The redevelopment of council estates can deliver a further 22,000 homes.

Converting empty commercial property and the space above high street shops offers the potential of 480,000 homes, while turning houses into flats and building more intensively in some areas would deliver 604,000 homes.

Better use of the existing housing stock, such as renovating derelict properties, offers potential for 325,000 extra homes, the report says. Redevelopment of inner-city car parks for houses could deliver an additional 160,000 homes.

Dr Festing said: "John Prescott must realise that urban renaissance can become a reality only if he sets a target of building three quarters of new homes in urban areas."

Mothers confess to giving babies a tot

By A Correspondent

MANY babies may have tasted alcohol by their second birthday, according to research. Nearly one in three mothers are giving their babies a sip to make them sleep, for amusement and to make them seem grown up.

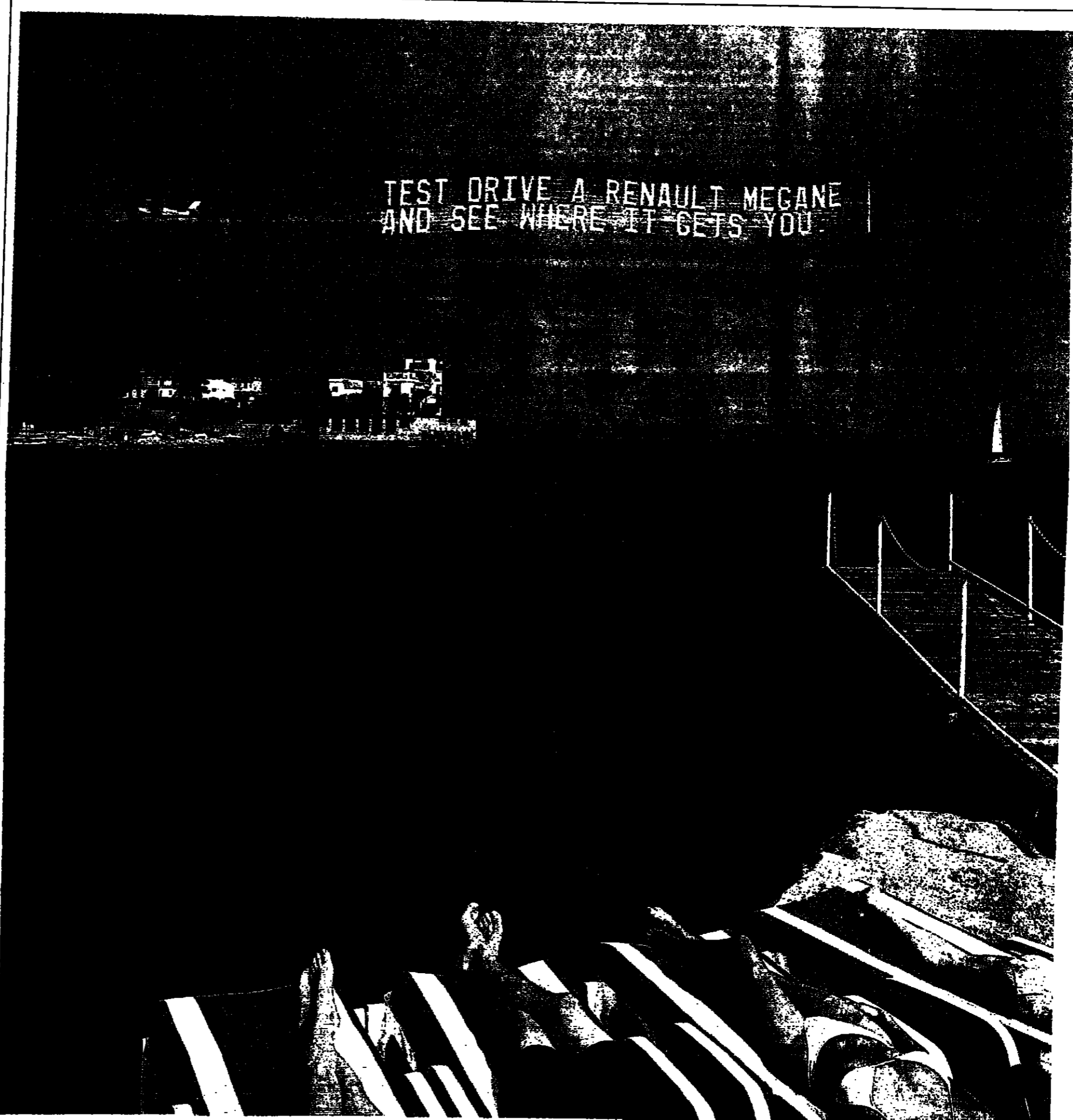
The "alcohol-tots" were identified after Elizabeth Murphy, senior lecturer in sociology at Nottingham University, questioned 36 new mothers about the eating habits of their babies. Ten of the children had been given alcohol to provoke a reaction, she told a conference in London.

"Alcohol appears to act as a way of incorporating the baby into the adult world of the family, particularly at parties and family gatherings. Babies who liked alcohol were a source of entertainment," Dr

Murphy said. One mother said her eight-month-old baby had a taste for "cider, lager and lime, and mild".

The amusement was associated with the recognition that alcohol is not appropriate for babies. "Drinking is an adult behaviour and babies who not only drink alcohol but appear to enjoy it transgress a recognised boundary between babyhood and adulthood," she said.

Donald Naismith, Professor of Nutrition at King's College London, said: "Alcohol is toxic and should not be given to babies. A sip of whisky for a baby is the equivalent of four double whiskies for an adult." "I doubt any of these babies actually swallowed the spirits. They probably spat it out as soon as they tasted it," he said.



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Army launches gender-free tests for new recruits

THE Army launched its new "gender-fair" physical recruitment tests yesterday, aimed at giving women a better chance of being accepted and helping a less-fit generation of young men.

Out goes the daunting regime of a three-mile run and exercises. Instead there is a series of nine scientific selection tests designed to match the physical standards of the military jobs the youngsters want - whether as Coldstream Guards, drivers or electrical technicians. Later there are multi-stage tests including running in a gym.

Senior officers hope that it will help to reverse declining recruitment, which has created a shortfall of 5,000 officers and soldiers, and address concerns about equal opportunities. The Defence Minister said the new physical assessment test was a "world-leading initiative" that would help to increase the jobs available to women in the Army from 47 per cent to 70 per cent.

"Each test will be related to a military task to see if the recruit is matched to the physical requirements of the trade he or she is to undertake - to see if he or she is fit for the job," John Spellar said at the launch of the new format at the Army Training Regiment's base in Farnborough, Surrey. The change was also needed because of declining levels of fitness among young people.

The new selection procedure tests are taken over 24 hours, and include arm endurance, lifting exercises, spine strength and heaves to the

Women muscle in as scientific selection puts hopefuls through paces, reports Kathryn Knight

beams. Candidates also undergo running tests to assess stamina. Results of each physical assessment are fed into a computer along with height and weight, which then indicates if the applicant is suitable for the job for which they have applied or if there is something else they can do if they are not suitable.

Colonel Patrick Mercer, head of communication and strategy, said that a low fitness reading did not necessarily preclude entry. "If you were determined to go for one particular thing and we felt you were not strong enough, we would suggest you train some more and try again or suggest an alternative. This way we hope the Army doesn't have to lose people," he said.

Under the new tests, all entrants must meet a minimum standard of physical fitness. It is hoped that the system will also reduce the number of injuries. Colonel Mercer said: "These tests are far better because they show that we recognise the fact that recruits are a very precious commodity, and we do not

want to break people under training."

Once entrants have been accepted, they go on to complete a 15-week foundation course in two stages, where they are given personal development targets relating to their potential future job and not their gender.

Helen Todd, a 17-year-old recruit in her first month of training, said the new gender-free scheme made women more on a par with the men. "At least when we get into the units we are all at the same level and there is no division between them. I found the tests especially good because I am much better lifting than running, so I was able to show that."

Michelle Haynes, a 17-year-old from Nottingham, had been training for 12 weeks and hopes to join the Royal Regiment of Artillery mounted gunners. Despite her slim build, her test had made the Army confident she could carry a 40 kilogram pack on a six-mile march by the end of her foundation course. "The best thing about this kind of training is that it builds you up gradually so you have time to adjust to what you need to do," she said.

Kevin Caster, 20, from Rotham, who is in his second week of training, said the Army had not dropped its standards but was changing with the times. "I have done both the old and new tests and I would not really say that the new test was easier, it just assesses more of your abilities."

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Mixing in: male and female recruits at training yesterday. The Government wants to increase the number of army jobs available to women

Ferry's dry run reverses tide of history

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

HUNDREDS drowned the last time soldiers tried to cross the River Severn at Tewkesbury's Bloody Meadow. Yesterday the Army showed how technology has moved on since the routed Lancastrian forces fled the field in 1471.

Vanquished at the penultimate engagement of the Wars of the Roses, they waded in unaware that the river was tidal and that the ford they had

crossed earlier was now deep under water. Few made it across.

In contrast yesterday, no one got their feet wet and the only casualty was the commanding officer, Lieutenant-Colonel John Wootton, who forgot to duck at a low doorway in the pub taken over as his command post for the aptly named Exercise Head First.

The star of the exercise was the M3, the Army's new amphibious ferry, being used for the first time in Britain. The vehicles, imported from a base in

Germany for the exercise, can be bolted together and used as ferries or pontoon bridges. In time, the Army will have 25 of the £1 million vehicles and will be able to bridge rivers up to 300 metres wide. Yesterday they had to make do with five of the 26-tonne, ten-metre M3s, formed into a floating platform that whisked backwards and forwards.

It took just a few hours to ferry more than 400 vehicles and 800 men from 1 Mechanised Brigade from the Lower

Lode Inn to a boathouse owned by Cheltenham College. A small group of locals gathered to watch the most exciting event in Lower Lode, Gloucestershire, for 527 years.

Captain Rosie Stone, an army spokeswoman, said: "This was an ideal opportunity for us to practise crossing a river as wide as the Severn. We chose that point because the access is quite narrow and it would have been difficult to get a traditional pontoon bridge into position."

Model cleared of bottle attack on boyfriend

By A CORRESPONDENT

A MODEL walked free from court after admitting hitting a former boyfriend with a beer bottle outside a pub.

Katy Kay, 19, was cleared of unlawfully wounding Andrew Hyde, who is expected to be scarred for life. "She had denied the charge."

Miss Kay had told police after her arrest that she had a bottle in her hand and remembered lashing out at Mr Hyde, but said that the rest was a blur.

She told a jury at Sheffield Crown Court that Mr Hyde, 24, had destroyed her confidence during their relationship over two and half years by constantly criticising her appearance, the clothes she

wore and the company she kept.

The court was told that Miss Kay, a photographic model, and Mr Hyde, who both come from well-off families in Dore, Sheffield, had been arguing after last orders at the Hare and Hounds pub on July 12 last year. Mr Hyde, who was working as a barman at the pub during the Dore gala, accused Miss Kay of staring at him and she told him he had "made her life hell".

Paul O'Shea, for the prosecution, said: "Outside the pub she told him he had treated her very badly in their relationship and she slapped him across the face. When he asked if she had finished, her

current boyfriend held Mr Hyde and, a moment later, he was struck in the face with a bottle of beer by Miss Kay. Mr Hyde was taken to hospital and needed 11 stitches across his nose and his upper left lip.

Miss Kay told police that she had struck out at Mr Hyde but that he had egged her on, pushing her over and leaving her petrified. She had "lashed out in sheer terror".

Miss Kay, who was in tears throughout the two-day trial that ended on Tuesday, told Sheffield Crown Court: "During the row outside the pub he pushed me backwards onto some glass in the road, and what exactly happened after-



Katy Kay: everything was a blur after attack

wards is still a blur. I have never hurt anyone before."

Mr Hyde, a former hairdresser, admitted that during the row he had called her "brain-dead" and that, when they had been together as a couple, he had called her "a slag and a slut".

Dance music discovery is reel thing

By GILLIAN HARRIS SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

SCOTTISH country dancers will perform a batch of new reels this summer after the discovery of previously unpublished work by a leading traditional musician.

The 50 handwritten tunes, scribbled on scraps of paper and in one instance on a luggage label, were composed by James Scott Skinner, a violin virtuoso who died in 1927 aged 84. Skinner, nicknamed the

Strathspey King, produced hundreds of popular country dance tunes during his prolific career.

Researchers from the Scottish Traditions of Dance Trust in Edinburgh, who uncovered the sheet music, believe he wrote the tunes towards the end of his life while in Angus. Some of the music forms part of a correspondence between Skinner and a pupil, James McPherson.

Evelyn Hood, of the trust, said: "Some of these tunes have never seen the light of

day before. One tune was scribbled on the back of a card and sent to his pupil asking him to play it for homework."

Skinner, who was born in Aberdeenshire, appeared on stage at the London Palladium with the singing star Harry Lauder, but was best known for composing toe-tapping reels and strathspeys which are still popular at ceilidhs.

It is hoped that the tunes will be performed at a traditional music festival in Angus in June.

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Campari and Luton part, with bitterness

By ROBIN YOUNG

CAMPARI, the drink that made Luton airport a national catchphrase, is spending £3 million to change its image from "a girlie's drink" to a fashionable choice for young men.

Advertisements for the Italian bitters during the 1970s featured the actress Lorraine Chase as the girl who had waded in not from paradise but from Luton airport and are among the best-remembered television advertising campaigns. But Campari sales have dwindled for the past 15 years and it now sells fewer than half a million bottles a year in Britain.

Chris Meredith, marketing director of First Drinks Brands, the UK distributor, said: "Campari may look like a girlie's sweet drink because it is red, but it actually has quite a bitter and distinctive taste." One advertisement, featuring "Mad" Frankie Fraser, has already been filmed, using the line "Mix bitterness with pleasure." Mr Meredith said: "There is a great opportunity at the younger end of the market because they will have been less tainted by its previous image."

Sarah Hopkinson, group brand manager of Campari, said that the drink was still a big-selling favourite in Italy. "Pushing Campari at men is not over-ambitious because more men than women already drink it. Campari is an acquired taste, like gin and tonic, and does not deserve its perceived image as a sweet fortified wine."

£3bn a year lost on EU fraud and mismanagement

Andrew Pierce reports on a waste of taxpayers' money

FRAUD and mismanagement in the European Union is costing taxpayers £3 billion each year with millions of pounds being spent on subsidising non-existent olive groves in Spain, Greece and Italy, according to a report published today.

One of the worst cases of mismanagement identified by Sir John Bourn, the public spending watchdog, was the overpayment of £2.2 billion in unnecessary compensation to arable and beef farmers.

Gordon Brown, as head of the finance ministers during Britain's six-month presidency of the EU, has urged a stricter financial regime. The Chancellor is holding a meeting of finance ministers next month to draw up details for a Europe-wide action plan.

Sir John, head of the National Audit Office, has challenged Tony Blair to use Britain's presidency to introduce sweeping reforms of the common agricultural policy where there is evidence of fraud in every member state. In a 60-page report to MPs he writes: "The UK's presidency of the EU provides a valuable opportunity for the government to influence the way that community funds are managed."

Sir John argues that EU bookkeeping is not up to the standard expected in Britain. "The Commission has some way to go before they attain the quality of financial reporting expected of public sector financial statements such as government accounts in the UK."

Only this week, at a meeting in Brussels, EU agriculture ministers raised the growing level of abuse in the £2 billion subsidy to the olive oil industry. As part of a crackdown, every olive tree in the EU will be counted and put on a register at a cost of £130 million. When the new system is in place, payments for yields will be scrapped and subsidies will instead depend on the number of trees planted by farmers. So far only Italy has completed its list.

The EU is subsidising a £20 million advertising campaign extolling the health-giving virtues of olive oil as a record number of groves are being planted.

The National Audit Office reserved its heaviest criticism for the common agricultural policy, which consumes almost half the EU's £60 billion spending. Cereal farmers benefited most, having received £2.2 billion in unwarranted compensation. Beef and veal farmers received £500,000 in unnecessary payments.

The scale of fraud and mismanagement in compensation to British farmers over the BSE crisis is so serious that Sir John is working on a separate report for Parliament.

Sir John recommended action to address the effectiveness of aid to tobacco growers. The total EU tobacco subsidy for 1996 was some £760 million at the aid rate of £5,000 a hectare. The subsidy was five times the market value of the product and the tobacco was of a "very low quality".

The level of error found in payments from the structural fund, which gives money to provide jobs in areas such as Liverpool with high unemployment and low growth, was unacceptable, Sir John said. Some 31 out of 69 fund payments had errors with a "measurable financial impact".

The report said that there was no room for complacency in any of the member states.

Norris's goal to be top city father

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

EVEN by the standards of Steven Norris's notoriously complex lifestyle, his next month will be turbulent as he prepares to start a new family and launch a challenge to become mayor of London.

The former Tory minister's partner, Emma Courtney, is expecting a baby in May. Soon afterwards he is likely to announce that he will fight Lord Archer of Westonsuper-Mare for the Tory nomination.

In spite of having his name splashed across newspapers after revelations of a series of extramarital affairs while a minister, Mr Norris, 52, still misses the political fray and is clearly anxious to be back in the spotlight.

"Life is going to be a bit different," he said, referring to the rigours of middle-age fatherhood, twelve years after his younger son was born. But any trepidation he has about light-night feeds is dwarfed by fears that his private life, and that of his family, may again attract media interest.

"That is a significant factor in making my mind up. I am probably known as fairly resilient, but the impact on those around me was one that saddened me a great deal and the idea of going back into mainstream politics does make me wonder whether it is worth it."

So why is he prepared to give up a comfortable life heading the Road Haulage Association and holding lucrative directorships? "God only knows. I must be out of my brain."

Although he lives with Miss Courtney in London he remains married to his wife, Vicky, with whom he has two



Steven Norris yesterday. He said that he must be mad to be considering a return to politics and the media glare

sons. His affability disappears when asked about his marital plans. "That's what I mean by unwarranted interest in private lives."

There will be little interest today when he stands up to address his association's conference, perhaps too little for someone who wants to be at the centre of public life.

He has always been frank about the reasons he left politics, when he had one of the country's safest seats. "I had to make some money. I

needed to recover the ground that I lost during the recession" — a period that led to the collapse of his car dealerships. "Now I am comfortable and, without sounding too pompous, I want to make a contribution. I believe I really have something to offer the people of London."

Although he ranks as second favourite to Lord Archer for the Tory nomination, he believes that his background in business and as a minister responsible for the capital makes him the best choice. "No-one has my experience."

In addition he has ensured, both as an MP and since, that he has never become a Labour Party hate figure, and says that he would have a positive working relationship with the Government. "While I am not going to seek confrontation at any level, neither am I going to be cosy up to government. London cannot have a mayor that has to follow the government line."

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Parkinson defends secret donations

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE Tory party highlighted its severe financial difficulties yesterday with an appeal to the Neill committee not to recommend a ban on anonymous donations.

Lord Parkinson, the Tory chairman, told the committee's inquiry into political funding that his party membership had dropped from a peak of a million to below 350,000 and that the struggle to recover from last year's election rout was proving to be "very, very tough".

He said: "We are working on it and we have a lot of support in the country and constituency associations are rallying around. But it is not easy. We are surviving."

Professor Anthony King suggested that if he were a Tory party treasurer he would be worried about the medium-term future. He told Lord Parkinson: "You hope to double membership. That is going to take a while and doubling membership is an aim, not something you can count on. Corporate donations seem to be in cyclical, if not terminal decline, and you are going to name donors over £5,000. Is not the Conservative Party going to be in added financial difficulty over the next few years?"

Lord Parkinson replied: "Congratulations — a very good analysis." He appealed to the committee not to "choke" off party funding by seeking to ban anonymous donations, which he said would infringe people's rights. "If people have acquired their money legitimately they should be free to spend it in a way they choose."

He said that many honourable people wished to help parties without being accused of seeking influence. A political donations institute could channel money anonymously to parties.

Irvine wrecks equality policy

By JILL SHERMAN

THE Lord Chancellor has enraged ministers by declaring that Labour's policy of ensuring equal representation for men and women in the Welsh assembly and Scottish parliament is unlawful.

Lord Irvine of Lairg's remarks, made at a private meeting of Welsh MPs, have thrown into confusion Labour's controversial "winning" policy of selecting candidates. Under this system, approved by the party conference in October, constituencies are twinned, either by geographical proximity or because they have similar profiles. If a male candidate is selected in one constituency, a woman must be selected in its twin. Next week a meeting of Labour's Welsh executive was due to ratify the system.

Lord Irvine was invited to attend the weekly meeting of Welsh MPs on Tuesday night as part of a drive to improve relations between him and Labour backbenchers. But he apparently infuriated MPs from the start by emphasising his good fortune to have a close relationship with the Prime Minister.

At the end of the meeting he was asked his opinion of twinning. He replied: "In my opinion it is unlawful."

Welsh MPs were astonished by his comments. They said after the meeting that the twinning plan could not proceed if the Lord Chancellor had already deemed it illegal.

The Lord Chancellor apparently was unaware of the turmoil his words had caused. When told they were bound to make headlines in the Welsh press he was said to have asked: "But there is no one from the press here, is there?"

In Parliament

TODAY in the Commons: Treasury questions; debate on the Royal Air Force; short debate on development of Dilton Bay; in the Lords: Social Security Bill, report.

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Nurses told to challenge poor levels of care

NURSES have been urged to seize control of the National Health Service from management to provide decent care for patients.

Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, told its annual conference in Bournemouth that it was time to say "no" to low staffing levels that were putting unacceptable pressures on nurses when they turned up for work.

"We are sick and tired. We're not going to take it any more," she said yesterday. "We have had enough. We are going to change things."

Nurses had to break the cycle of low staff levels, pressure and low morale. Ms Hancock said. She told the 2,000 delegates that, from next week, they must challenge poor care whenever they saw it. Patients should no longer be allowed to spend the night on trolleys or be shunted from ward to ward just to suit the

'The NHS can do heart transplants

but it cannot provide clean pyjamas.' Ian Murray reports

convenience of management. "Poor-quality care makes everyone angry," she said. "People don't easily forget when their loved ones have been badly cared for. It doesn't help patients to get better when we all seem too busy to care... nurses are trained to put patients first; nurses are burnt out, not because they don't care but because they care too much."

Patients needed care in little things such as being helped to

eat or be given a cup of tea. Fundamentals had been forgotten. "In this country we can transplant hearts, but we can't provide a patient with a clean pair of pyjamas with buttons on."

Nurses knew the importance of details and how to organise care and needed to put their point across firmly. "For health services that have been obsessed with a business model of running healthcare, it's a big shift in thinking... if you think something's wrong, or if something could be done better, then you say so. If you're a nurse who comes into work to take charge of a night-shift and staffing levels are so low they're unsafe, then you say 'No.'"

The college had to use the collective strength of its 310,000 members to force the necessary changes, she said. "This is not just an issue for nurse managers and senior nurses. It's an issue for all



Christine Hancock at the union's conference yesterday. She said that nursing staff had had enough

Police are called in over attack on referee

By Helen Johnstone

POLICE have begun an investigation into violence at a Sunday league football match that left a referee in hospital. Bill Freeman, 68, who has been a referee for 46 years, was kicked, punched and spat at by players after sending off a goalkeeper for using foul and abusive language in the league match in Warley, West Midlands, between Park Athletic and Langley Model FC last weekend. He also sent off another player for barging into him.

Warley Sunday League and the Birmingham County Football Association are considering action against the players involved. John Rochelle, the Warley league chairman, said: "The players have already been suspended for life. One day there will be a really serious incident because it is unstoppable and stems from the very top of the game."

Mr Freeman, who has left hospital after treatment to his eyes and legs, said the attack was disgraceful, but it would not deter him from refereeing.

Leukaemia boy honoured for top school grades

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

A SCHOOLBOY who scored some of the country's highest test grades while being treated for leukaemia is to receive an award.

Mark Cowburn, 11, reached the top level in national curriculum tests in English, mathematics and science, even though his studies were interrupted by two years of chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant.

Between frequent trips to hospital, Mark found time to act as a prefect and play football at Charter Primary School at Chippenham, Wiltshire. He is one of ten winners of the second annual Child of

Resolution Awards, to be awarded on May 1 by Present, the National Association for the Education of Sick Children.

In his citation from the association, Mark was praised for the "monumental effort" he made to keep up with his peers. He was found, in December 1995, to have acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, which causes extreme blood clotting. He was 9.

He received hour-long lessons at his hospital bedside and took his national curriculum tests last summer, achieving level five — the highest in primary school — in all three subjects. Mark, who wants to be an astronaut, said: "Sometimes I really didn't feel like working, but I always tried to do as much as I could. I just didn't want to fall behind on anything." He is in remission and undergoes weekly hospital tests to ensure the disease has not returned.

The nine other children to receive awards at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, range in age from 6 to 18. The awards, sponsored by Sainsbury's, recognise children's exceptional efforts to continue learning despite chronic illness or accidents.



Mark Cowburn given lessons in hospital

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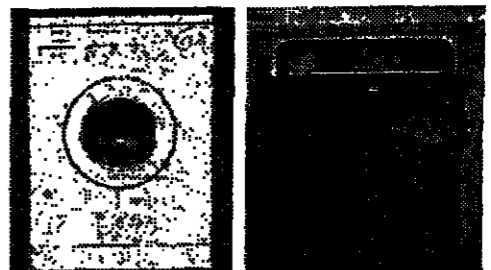
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Irvine wrecks equality policy

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Neo-Nazi poll blitz wins jobless voters

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A RIGHT-WING millionaire publisher is ploughing more than £1 million into a regional election campaign in eastern Germany this week to lure younger voters away from Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats and other mainstream parties.

Privately hired planes are criss-crossing the airspace of Saxony-Anhalt, tugging banners urging Germans to get rid of "criminal foreigners". More than 20,000 posters have been plastered on buildings calling for a vote for the far-right German People's Union (DVU). "Jobs for Germans first," they say. "German money only for German tasks." The party has conducted a huge mailshot of 18 to 25-year-olds and the over-sixties. The election is on Sunday. The result of this investment — costing more than the election budgets of the Christian Democrats and Social Democrats combined — has been a surge of support for the DVU. The Forsa opinion poll institute gives the party 6 per cent of the vote — enough for a block of seats in the state parliament. The man behind the campaign is the party's founder, Munich-based Gerhard Frey, who publishes the *National Zeitung*. He has made no secret of his sympathies for Hitler. His schemes have included a radio station in Kaliningrad to broadcast neo-

Nazi propaganda. Herr Frey is close to the centre of an international web of far-right politicians. He has had dealings with Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the French National Front, and regular contacts with ultra-nationalists in Belgium, Italy and Denmark. Herr Frey has also been in touch with Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the Russian far-right nationalist leader.

At the beginning of the 1990s the German People's Union managed to gain seats in the Bremen and Schleswig-Holstein parliaments. Last autumn the DVU only narrowly — by 0.02 per cent — failed to enter the Hamburg parliament. It is represented on many district councils.

Now, Herr Frey — whose wealth also derives from videos and compact discs glorifying the war — is out to conquer the east for the neo-Nazis.

Another far-right party, the

NPD (National Party of Germany), has decided not to run in Saxony-Anhalt, leaving the race open for the German People's Union.

Although neo-Nazi activity is often exaggerated, there are signs of a strong revival among unemployed youths in the east.

In Berlin, neo-Nazis have organised themselves into *Kameradschaften* — comrade cells — and in the surrounding Brandenburg regions these groups are particularly menacing. Police have reported 39 such groups in Brandenburg and are recording ever more violent incidents. Weapons and explosives are often involved.

No-go areas have been declared in certain neighbourhoods, with shaven-headed neo-Nazis attacking any foreigner or foreign-looking person entering "their" territory. A group of young Poles was recently stopped at gunpoint

— the gun later turned out to be a starting pistol — and forced to have their pictures taken in a deliberate attempt to mimic the Nazi days. Turkish kebab stands are set on fire and black students and building workers beaten up in alleyways.

The latest support for neo-Nazis is in areas of high unemployment in eastern Germany. The result is a dense concentration of youth discontent in the windy housing estates such as those of Olvenstedt, a grim suburb of Magdeburg, the capital of Saxony-Anhalt. Anger is turned against foreigners who "steal" jobs by working — usually for low wages — on building sites.

Another target is Herr Kohl, who promised "blossoming landscapes" for the east after unification. Instead Saxony-Anhalt is among the least successful regions.

Some disaffected voters will shift to Herr Frey's party because of his promise of a "gigantic state investment programme" and his call for drastic tax cuts. Wrapped up in chauvinistic labels — his rallies invariably end with the singing of every verse of the national anthem. "The problem here is not so much with right-wing youth, but with the centre of society which thinks in a very nationalistic way," says Günter Piening, the state official responsible for foreigners' affairs.

Murder call on video

Copenhagen: Danish neo-Nazis have released a video calling for the murder of four Danes known for their anti-racist, pro-refugee attitudes. Erik Jensen, editor of the magazine *Demos*, itself a target of the neo-Nazis, said yesterday.

The video magazine *Kriegsberichter*, which is sold by the neo-Nazi produc-

tion and distribution group NS 88, offers a video with an animation of about three minutes depicting the murder of the four Danes. Their names are given in subtitles.

Mr Jensen is among the four and his address is given, accompanied by the English text: "Target number 5. The Main Target. A bullet in the head." (AFP)



The Hong Kong newspaper *Apple Daily* apologised yesterday for using a photograph of Hitler to illustrate a story about Germany's

World Cup football team, saying it had not meant to offend anyone. It said: "If [the photograph] led to unhappiness for any people or

groups, we apologise." The apology was described as tepid by Rabbi Yaakov Kermaier of Hong Kong's Ohel Leah Synagogue. (AP)

Eurocrats vote for one-day strike over jobs

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

STAFF at the European Commission yesterday voted to stage a one-day strike next Thursday, on the eve of a special European Union summit, in protest against a reform that threatens to end the comfortable jobs of thousands of Eurocrats.

About 1,500 staff gave strong backing to calls by the unions for industrial action to demonstrate their anger over what they see as an attempt by the Commission to impose a shake-up that would end the job security of the EU's 25,000 civil servants.

If the unions fail to win concessions from Erkki Liikanen, the Personnel Commissioner, at a meeting on Wednesday, all the Commission's 17,000 staff will be urged to stop work for 24 hours on Thursday. Officials say a strike is almost certain to go ahead, with further action to follow next month.

A stoppage will be an embarrassment one day ahead of the weekend's EU summit, chaired by Tony Blair, to launch the single currency.

Under pressure from Germany and other member states, Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, has promised a shake-up in the antiquated system that regulates promotions, salaries and recruitment. It involves unions at all levels and makes it nearly impossible to dismiss officials. The unions are angry over what they see as Mr Liikanen's desire to impose reform as a *fait accompli*, rather than through negotiation.

The Commission's managers note, however, that the plan is only now being discussed in general terms and will not be ready for a decision until next year. Cash crisis: Fewer than one in three Britons is aware that Europe's single currency will be called the euro, according to a survey published yesterday. Only 39 per cent of Britons were able to name the currency correctly, compared with 92 per cent of the French, 91 per cent of Spaniards and 83 per cent of Belgians. (AFP)

EU ready to ban tobacco adverts

BY CHARLES BREMNER

THE European Union's proposed ban on tobacco advertising and sponsorship won approval yesterday from the key committee at the European Parliament, clearing the way for endorsement by the full assembly and entry into law by the summer, before the end of Britain's EU presidency on June 30.

MEPs on the environment committee voted by 36-7 not to add any amendments to the directive, which was narrowly approved by member states

under British chairmanship in February with a temporary exemption for the sponsorship of Formula One motor racing and other "special" events.

The committee ignored a vote by the parliament's legal committee which last week found the ban to have no legal basis under the EU constitution.

The main opposition to the ban has come from Germany, strongly backed by the tobacco industry. German MEPs all voted against the measure yesterday and promised to fight the Bill when it

comes for a full parliamentary vote in May. Germany is expected to challenge the law in the European Court of Justice on the grounds that it has no legal basis and breaches the principles of free speech.

The law will outlaw within three years all tobacco advertising on hoardings, in cinemas, and in newspapers and magazines within four years.

Sponsorship of sporting and cultural events must end within five years, except for Formula One motor racing and similar events. This must be phased out within eight years.

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Italy outraged by proposal to sell Colosseum

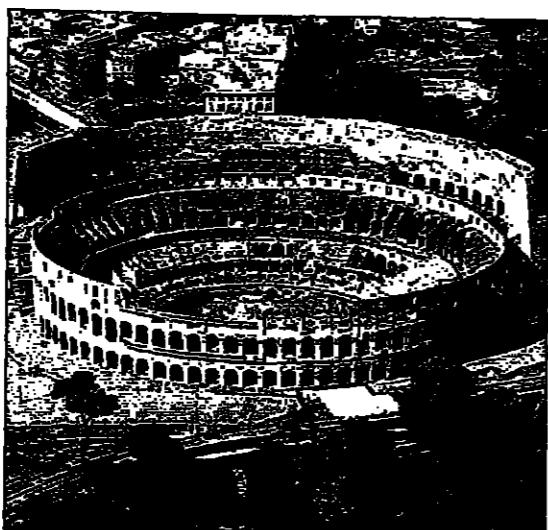
FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AN OFFICIAL proposal to put the Colosseum and other ancient monuments up for sale as part of the Italian centre-left Government's privatisation programme caused uproar yesterday.

Professor Giacomo Vaciago, an economist from Piacenza who heads the Ministry of Finance committee responsible for selling off state-owned properties, said he had placed the Foro Italico, the Fascist-era sports complex on the Tiber which hosted the 1960 Olympics, at the top of his list of saleable assets, with a potential price tag of more than £1 billion. The complex — known in Fascist times as the Foro Mussolini — includes a stadium, an Olympic swimming pool and championship tennis courts, as well as an athletics arena ringed by heroic, larger-than-life statues of muscular sportsmen. It also boasts an obelisk with the legend "Mussolini Dux" (Mussolini Duce), one of the few remaining reminders of the dictator. The sale of state properties is part of an attempt to cut Italy's huge budget deficit and so meet the Maastricht criteria for the European single currency.

Professor Vaciago said a 1939 law allowing the state to sell properties of "historic and artistic value" was still in force. He said the sports complex, owned by the National Olympic Committee, would benefit from private enterprise and modern management methods. "But why stop there?" he said. "The same could be said of the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, and the Forum and the Colosseum in Rome." He urged Romano Prodi, the centre-left Prime Minister, to consider putting the Colosseum in the hands of "American-style business managers". He said "suitable entrepreneurs" would be able to run the site efficiently, oversee its restoration and stage lucrative "events" for tourists, including latter-day versions of entertainments such as chariot races and gladiator contests. Walter Veltroni, the Deputy

through by Signor Veltroni since the Centre-Left came to power two years ago, private investment in the arts has been encouraged, museum opening hours have been lengthened, and long-closed art galleries, such as the Villa Borghese in Rome, have been refurbished. Claudio Strinati, Superintendent of Culture in Rome, said such moves were "more than adequate", and there was "no need for wholesale privatisation". But he told *La Repubblica* that he had no objection to the sale of the Foro Italico, since the artistic value of its Fascist and postwar architecture was "minimal". "We are not talking about something like the Uffizi, which was built in the 16th century and has an unrivalled art collection," he said. Professor Vaciago admitted his proposal was "perhaps a bit provocative", but he meant to draw attention to the need to "revitalise" Italy's cultural heritage. The sale of state-owned properties includes army barracks, airfields, warehouses, light-houses, and coastal and agricultural land, as well as Renaissance buildings. □ Sicilian overture: The gala re-opening of Palermo's opera theatre, the Teatro Massimo, last night after a closure of nearly a quarter of a century was greeted by the media as a sign of the Sicilian capital's renaissance after years of neglect and Mafia control. Leoluca Orlando, the anti-Mafia mayor, said a "wind of change" was blowing in Sicily.



6 The Colosseum is not just a national treasure, it is part of the heritage of mankind 9

Prime Minister and Minister of Culture, said the scheme was "out of the question". "The Colosseum is not just an Italian national treasure, it is part of the heritage of mankind," he said. "It would be like selling the Pyramids of Egypt to an oil company."

He said ticket sales at the Colosseum provided the state with revenue of £1 million a month, which the Government was able to use for its programme of upgrading and reopening long-neglected museums. Under plans pushed

cludes army barracks, airfields, warehouses, light-houses, and coastal and agricultural land, as well as Renaissance buildings.

□ Sicilian overture: The gala re-opening of Palermo's opera theatre, the Teatro Massimo, last night after a closure of nearly a quarter of a century was greeted by the media as a sign of the Sicilian capital's renaissance after years of neglect and Mafia control. Leoluca Orlando, the anti-Mafia mayor, said a "wind of change" was blowing in Sicily.



Law and disorder: warders and police officers were on opposite sides of the fence at Bois d'Arcy prison, on the outskirts of Paris. The warders were taking part in a national week of protests at working conditions

Riviera murder suspect held by police

By Richard Owen

POLICE hunting the "Riviera serial killer" arrested a man yesterday at the port of La Spezia. They said he was aged 48 and that a revolver of the kind used in the killings had been found in his car.

They said it was not clear he was the killer: he had been identified by a prostitute who had been robbed by an assailant a month ago.

Earlier the police had said they were piecing together a photofit picture of the suspect based on new evidence from women who had been threatened recently by an armed man while travelling on trains along the Italian Riviera coast. The witnesses said the man wore a railwayman's uniform.

Eight women have been killed in or near resorts along the Ligurian coast, usually at weekends. All were shot in the back of the head with a .38-calibre revolver. The killer uses lead-tipped bullets that fragment on impact.

Six of the victims were prostitutes picking up clients on country roads. But at Easter two women travelling on coastal trains on their own — neither of them prostitutes — were shot dead in the lavatories of trains between Genoa and Ventimiglia.

The police said the fact that the killer had a master key with which he was able to lock and unlock train lavatories reinforced the theory that he may be a railway employee or former employee. "Alternatively he could have stolen both the uniform and the key", a police official said.

Corriere della Sera said that three women had come forward claiming they had been molested by the presumed murderer but had fought him off. One, a young ballerina, said she had been entering the lavatory of a train travelling between La Spezia and Ventimiglia when a man "pushed me in the back and tried to grab me from behind". She turned and "saw that he had a pistol stuck in his belt... I screamed and managed to close the door in the man's face". By the time she emerged, he had escaped.

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Troubled states cast long nuclear shadow

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE secret deal to remove 91b of highly enriched weapons-grade uranium from Georgia has dramatically highlighted the risks associated with nuclear research programmes in potentially unstable countries.

Although the states which were formerly Soviet republics no longer have nuclear weapons stationed on their territory, there are still nearly a dozen research reactors which are involved in civil nuclear programmes in six of the countries. Russia also has 36 of its own nuclear research reactors.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that there would be no more operations to remove weapons-grade nuclear material from the former Soviet Union. Georgia, he indicated in an interview on the BBC Radio Today programme, was a one-off operation.

"We understand that this is the last such consignment around the countries of the former Soviet Union and this is the end of the story," he said.

Acknowledging the potential risks posed by the storage of weapons-grade nuclear material in former Soviet republics, he said: "This material... is highly explosive, it is a weapons-grade material, it is in a country which has had a major civil war which now does not have any other nuclear programme of its own, because the rest of that nuclear programme is now within the Russian Federation. If it went into the wrong hands — and Georgia is not

that far away from the Middle East — then it could pose a real danger to ourselves."

Despite his assurances that Georgia is a special case, the other research reactors dotted around the former Soviet Union will also have highly enriched uranium as part of their civil programmes.

International experts who have visited the sites acknowledge that the physical security around the facilities are generally fairly low-key. There are air-lock gates but no extensive physical protection.

Kazakhstan has the largest nuclear research programme among the former Soviet republics, with three research reactors, two at Semipalatinsk, the former Soviet test site, and one at Alma Ata, the former capital. They have high-grade and low-grade uranium for producing radioactive material that is used for

medical, agricultural and industrial purposes. A common usage is for checking the welding on oil pipelines.

The other nuclear research reactors in former Soviet republics consist of two in Uzbekistan, both in Tashkent, two in Ukraine at Kiev and Sevastopol, one in Belarus at Minsk and one in Riga in Latvia. Ukraine also has 16 nuclear power plants which produce 43 per cent of the country's electricity. Armenia and Lithuania each have two nuclear power plants, but no research reactors.

All the reactors in the former Soviet republics — with the exception of Georgia — are monitored by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency in accordance with nuclear safeguard inspection regimes agreed with the individual countries under

the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Georgia is the exception because, although it has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the safeguards regime has yet to be ratified by the Georgian parliament, which has prevented the IAEA from carrying out inspections. This was one of the many reasons why the decision was taken to remove the highly enriched uranium from the university institute outside Tbilisi.

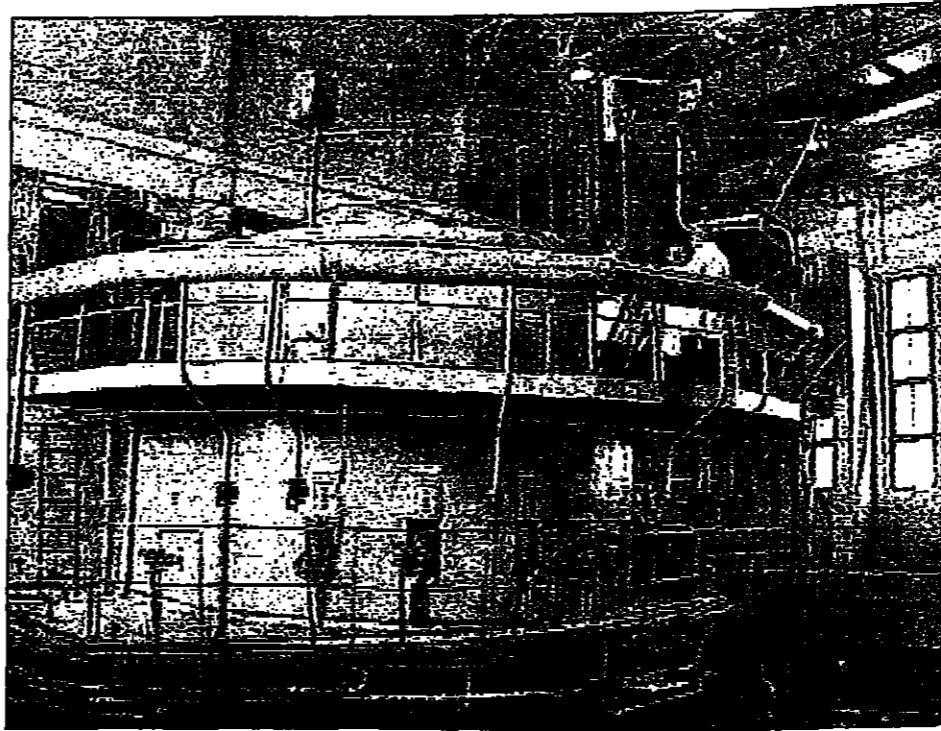
The IAEA is not responsible for the physical protection of the nuclear fuel in the research centres, but if it felt the safeguards were inadequate, its inspectors would make recommendations.

There are currently 264 nuclear research reactors in the world, some of them in countries with covert nuclear weapons programmes.

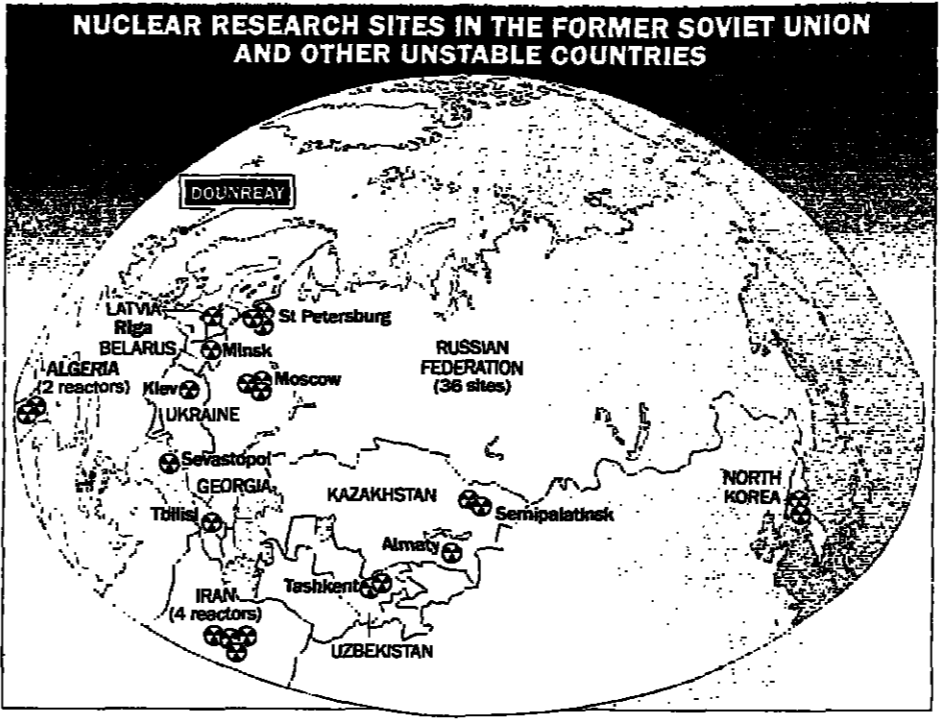
The United States reached an agreement with Russia in 1992 and 1993 to buy hundreds of tonnes of uranium from dismantled nuclear warheads for \$12 billion over 20 years. Washington also purchased 600 kilos of highly enriched uranium from Kazakhstan in 1994 in a project codenamed Operation Sapphir.

Moscow Ten officers from a former nuclear base in Belarus, including a general and two colonels, face a court martial on charges of theft. Five were accused of reselling precious metal. (AFP)

Magnus Linklater, page 22
Leading article, page 23



The nuclear reactor at the research centre near the capital of Georgia, Tbilisi



Kosovo fighting flares on eve of ballot

FROM TOM WALKER IN PRISTINA

HUNDREDS of Yugoslav Army troops were yesterday seen advancing towards a pocket of ethnic Albanian resistance near the Kosovo-Albania border — on the eve of a Serbian referendum on whether to allow foreign mediation in the crisis.

Heavy fighting was reported on Tuesday night, and yesterday journalists entering the area heard automatic weapons fire and artillery shells pounding a wooded area east of the road between Pec and Dakovica.

An American reporter, Philip Smucker, was dragged by police from his car and kicked, while his Albanian interpreter was beaten about the head. The Albanian fighters were equally paranoid about witnesses to the action, and threatened to kill local reporters from Pristina.

The Serbian Ministry for Information did not deny Yugoslav army involvement, but said the troops were only reinforcing police positions. Any firing was being done by the police, a spokesman said. Police units could be seen milling about a nearby hillside.

The trouble has centred on Babajoc, a Serbian refugee settlement, where 120 families claim their Orthodox Easter lunch was disturbed by Albanian terrorists on Sunday.

Today Serbs are holding a referendum on whether to accept foreign mediation in the crisis. State television and newspapers, pumping out propaganda about an area regarded as the cradle of the Serb nation, have urged the population to reject any foreign involvement. Diplomats fear that Serbs voting for foreign mediation or abstaining will face harassment.

MEDICAL USE 'HIGHLY UNLIKELY'

THE highly enriched uranium being shipped from Georgia to Dounreay in Scotland will almost certainly never be used for medical purposes (Nick Nuttall writes).

Experts said yesterday that the world was awash with medical isotopes for treating cancers or imaging diseased parts of the body such as the thyroid gland. "This stuff is far too precious for using in medicine. It will end up in a nuclear submarine after reprocessing. Saying it will be used in medicine is a smokescreen," an expert said.

Enriched uranium and plutonium are also unlikely materials from which to make medical isotopes. A spokesman for Nymed Amersham, one of the world's biggest manufacturers of medical isotopes, based in Amersham in Buckinghamshire, said yesterday: "This stuff will be of no use to us whatsoever."

Exotic isotopes, such as Iodine 123 used in imaging diseased parts of the body, have half-lives of just tens of hours. Others such as Iodine 131 are used to treat goitres.

Isolated Communist leader vows to resist Yeltsin candidate

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

DEFIANT but now looking lonely, Gennadi Zyuganov, Russia's Communist Party leader, repeated his opposition yesterday to the appointment of Sergei Kiriyenko as Prime Minister and said his faction would again oppose him at the third and final vote on his candidature in the Duma tomorrow.

Speaking at Lenin's tomb in Red Square, where he laid a wreath to

mark the 129th anniversary of the birth of the founder of the Soviet state, Mr Zyuganov said he was prepared for the dissolution of parliament if necessary. If the Duma rejects Mr Kiriyenko tomorrow, President Yeltsin is obliged by the constitution to dissolve the legislature and call new parliamentary elections.

Unfortunately for Mr Zyuganov, many of his allies and fellow-Communists in the Duma take a different view. Valentin Kuptsov,

Mr Zyuganov's deputy, said yesterday that the chances of his party backing Mr Kiriyenko were 50-50. Gennadi Seleznyov, the Communist Speaker of the Duma, called last week for Mr Kiriyenko's approval, saying it was much more important to preserve the Duma until the end of its term in December next year.

Yesterday, Nikolai Ryzhkov, a former Soviet Prime Minister and one of Mr Yeltsin's most hardline opponents, said his People's Power faction would be backing Mr Kiriyenko this time. Yegor Stroyev, Speaker of the Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, also said that he was convinced that Mr Kiriyenko would be approved.

Mr Stroyev and Mr Seleznyov are due to have talks today with Mr Yeltsin. They are likely to advise him on the best tactics to ensure that his nominee gets through. One possible proposal is that Mr Yeltsin should appear at the Duma in person to present Mr Kiriyenko. Such a move would be seen as a gesture of

respect and conciliation and could be crucial in swinging the vote. Later the Federation Council voted overwhelmingly in favour of a resolution recommending the Duma to approve Mr Kiriyenko. Only ten members of the upper house opposed the motion.

However, Mr Yeltsin did receive one setback yesterday when the Duma passed a new version of the Land Code he vetoed last year. Mr Yeltsin objected to the first version of the code because it did not allow

the free sale and purchase of land. In the new version, the wording has been changed, supposedly to take into account his earlier objections, but it still places severe restrictions on land sales. Mr Yeltsin is almost certain to veto it again.

Nato snubbed: General Igor Sergeev, Russian Defence Minister, cancelled a meeting yesterday with General Wesley Clark, Nato Supreme Allied Commander for Europe, in what appeared to be a deliberate snub to the alliance.

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Ranchers started rainforest fires to claim aid

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN RIO DE JANEIRO

THE fires which have devastated a quarter of the Amazonian state of Roraima in north Brazil were fuelled by landowners and ranchers who torched land to cash in on government compensation, according to a police inquiry launched this week.

The investigation into the blaze that swept through rainforest and savannah has found evidence that large and medium-scale farmers set fire to their fields after a government promise to hand out cash payments or debt pardons to those affected by fires.

"When they heard that they could cash in on payments, hundreds of ranchers purposely set fire to their land. This was the cause of greater devastation and doubled the environmental damage," said a federal police spokesman in Roraima. "We have found lines where it is evident that men lined up and used kerosene to start fires."

Salmão Cruz, a local congressman, denounced the

"criminal fires". He said: "Landowners heard that they could free themselves of large debts and, to get compensation, just torched their own fields. They decided to burn them because they would anyway suffer great losses as a result of a long drought."

The severest drought to have affected the area this century caused the fires to rage out of control and spread to rainforest areas.

It was then that the Government of President Fernando Cardoso promised compensation of \$200 per acre to those affected. "The offer of help came as a go-ahead for most indebted landowners to commit arson to save themselves financially," said Senhor Cruz.

Paulo Adario, the director of Greenpeace in Brazil, said: "We saw and filmed a number of farmers who were torching fields on purpose and it is clear that this was the cause of fires raging totally out of control."

Their action is likely to have been the cause of wider destruction. More than 700 firefighters spent weeks in Roraima unable to put out fires which were eventually doused by torrential rains. It is estimated that an area the size of England was destroyed.

Senhor Cardoso's Government yesterday said that it would expropriate the lands of farmers found guilty of starting their own fires.



An Australian docker leads his dismissed colleagues through barricades in Melbourne yesterday to report for work after a court ordered their reinstatement. But the police turned them back. Later the full bench of the Federal Court extended a stay on

Appeal robs dockers of their triumph

the reinstatement of the 1,400 dockers sacked by the stevedoring firm Patrick. The court said it would decide today on an appeal by Patrick against the reinstatement

order. Murray Wilcox, the presiding judge, told the court that the status quo would remain until today because he did not want sacked workers to return to the

docks if they were only to be ushered back out again if the appeal was successful.

of Japan said that it had decided to block ships from Australia loaded by non-union workers.

Tetsuya Sakano, head of the organisation, said that the council was considering other measures, including a boycott of Australian goods. (Reuters)

Decision on Vanunu's parole put back to next month

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL yesterday postponed a decision on a parole request by Mordechai Vanunu, the nuclear technician jailed after revealing Israel's nuclear secrets to *The Sunday Times* and being kidnapped by Mossad in Italy in 1986.

The unexplained announcement that the parole hearing — behind closed doors at the Shikma prison in Ashkelon — was to continue until May 4 was taken as a sign that, in form at least, the Government

was treating the request seriously.

Although Vanunu has served two thirds of his 18-year sentence, all until last month in solitary confinement, his Israeli lawyer said earlier that it was unlikely he would be freed.

He claimed those held for criminal offences had a good chance of being freed early, but different standards apply to security prisoners.

The lawyer, Avigdor Feldman, said the isolation just ended had "led to severe health and emotional prob-

lems and the time has come to leave him alone and let him out of prison."

He added that Vanunu, 43, a Jew converted to Christianity, would tell the three-member board he did not regret his actions. "He will say that he acted according to his conscience and that he thinks that he did the right thing," Mr Feldman said.

Israeli political sources said that the latest smuggled interview, in which Vanunu told readers of *The Sunday Times* that he would do the same thing again, had not helped.

Israeli prison authorities have banned his brother, Asher, from visiting for six months for helping to smuggle the interview out of the jail.

Asher claimed that his Moroccan-born brother did not know the comments were being transferred to the newspaper. Mordechai Vanunu also denied knowing anything about the interview, the first published since his kidnapping from Italy after being lured there from London by an agent code-named "Cindy".

He was given a warning not to grant any more interviews

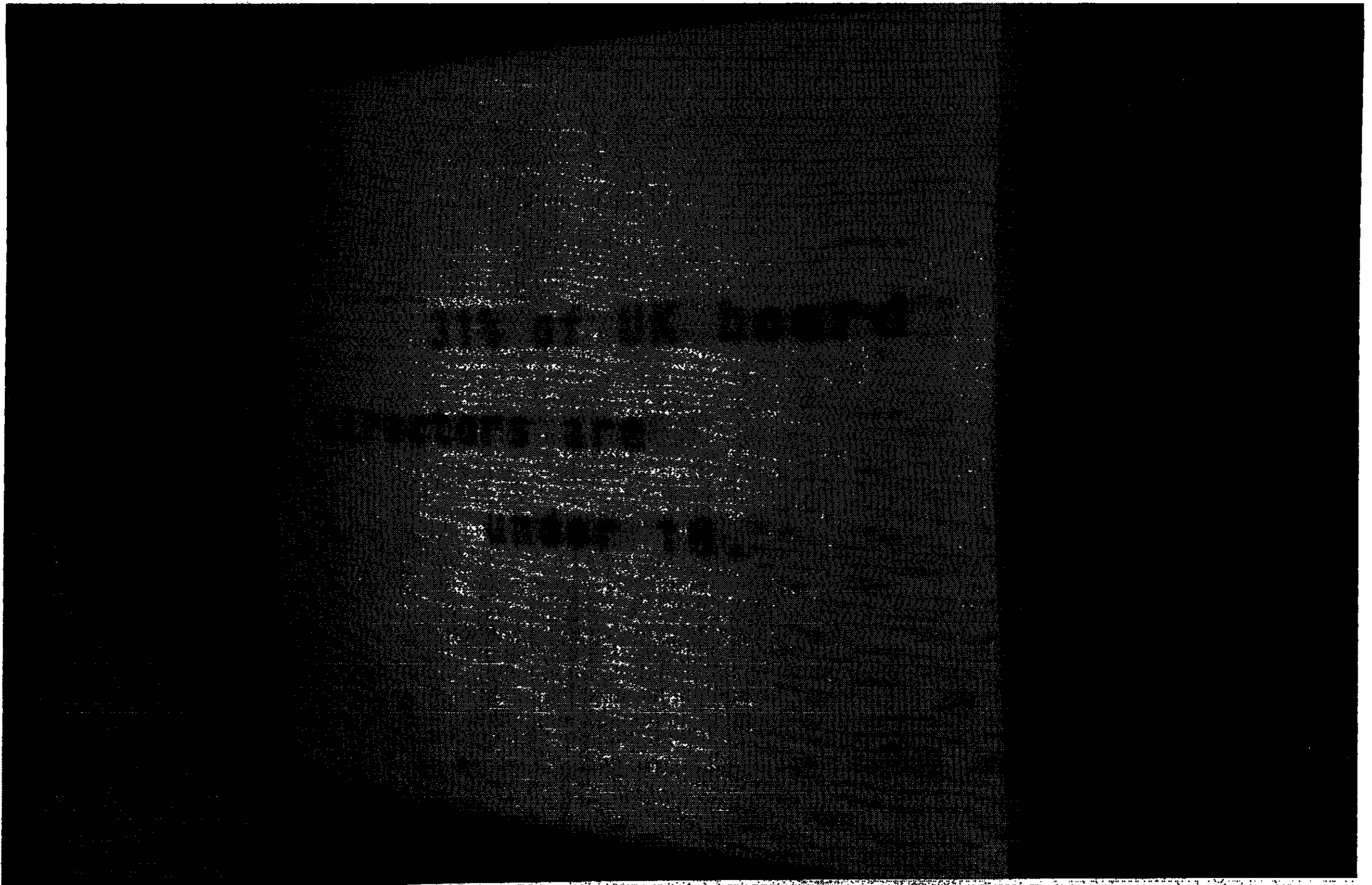
without permission. Among those opposed to Vanunu's early release are the Israeli Justice Ministry and the Shin Bet, the equivalent of MI5.

Many ordinary Israelis also believe that his 18-year sentence for espionage was richly deserved and should not be shortened.

Yesterday *The Jerusalem Post* carried a long article arguing bitterly against any early release, accusing Vanunu — who has always claimed that he acted as a "whistle-blower" — of "venal greed and a deeply buried

grudge against his family, friends ... the religion into which he was born and his country".

Only about a dozen demonstrators gathered outside the prison, chanting "Free Vanunu". If parole is denied, there is hope that he might be pardoned in conjunction with Israel's 50th anniversary celebrations. President Weizman is expected to grant freedom to hundreds of prisoners, and British human rights campaigners have collected more than 17,000 signatures asking him to include Vanunu.



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Hi-tech cards will help US to screen 'illegals'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE United States raised the stakes in its war against counterfeiters yesterday, distributing green cards more heavily protected by security codes than any others issued so far in an effort to fight the swelling tide of illegal immigration.

Packed with the most up-to-date technology, the new card for permanent legal immigrants includes microscopic portraits of all 42 Presidents, an embedded hologram of the Statue of Liberty and a laser-etched digital colour photograph of the cardholder. Minute drawings of 50 state flags, a dozen holograms and a digital fingerprinting system combined with an optical memory stripe will enable US border patrol officers and prospective employers to establish whether the card is a fake.

The Immigration and Naturalisation Service, which issued the first 50,000 cards yesterday, said the card was the most counterfeit-resistant of any issued anywhere and had cost \$38 million (£22.7 million) to develop.

"This card is unique," Elaine Komis, of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service, said. "It combines all the most modern technologies and would be inordinately expensive to replicate. It makes other such cards look

like stone tablets." Over the next decade the cards will replace those held by about 10 million legal immigrants and the features will be altered regularly to fend off imitations. Many of the five million illegal immigrants believed to be living in the United States have been using fake green cards to cross borders and to secure employment.

The false cards, depending on the expertise of their manu-

facture, have been available for as little as \$35 and as much as \$15,000. In the past year alone, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service has discovered many caches of the counterfeit documents. In Los Angeles, officials found 250,000 fake cards in a house; another 80,000 were found near the Mexican border. The ease with which previous cards could be imitated made it increasingly difficult to prevent widespread abuse. A rucksack, found at one location, had included the simple tools of the trade: a typewriter, a small laminating machine, glue, a polaroid camera and some cards.

The new card is white plastic with a green stripe. The term "green card" has been a misnomer since the 1960s, when its colour was changed to blue then, most recently, to pink.

6 This card is unique and makes others look like stone tablets

Democracy flourished in the shade of the Jolly Roger

New research suggests pirates treasured civil liberties and social welfare benefits, writes James Bone

THE Skull and Crossbones flown on pirate ships may have been an early banner of democracy and the welfare state, according to revisionist historians who dispute the traditional view of Long John Silver as a cruel, drunken, peg-legged bandit.

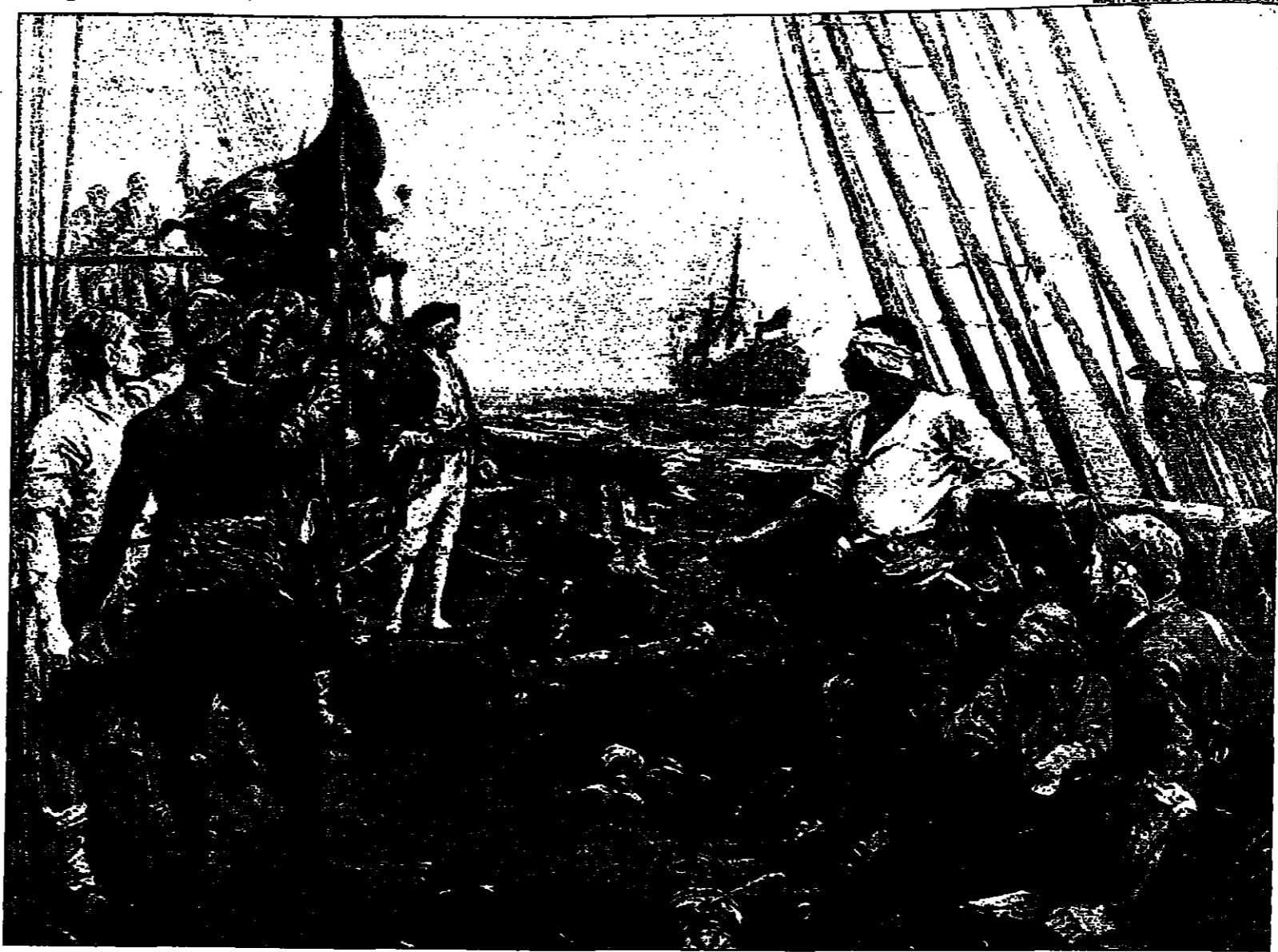
New research since the 1984 discovery of the *Whydah*, a pirate ship which sank off the coast of Massachusetts in 1717, has forced a reassessment of the pirate's place in history.

While acknowledging that pirates sometimes tortured their captives by twisting a leather cord round their necks until their eyeballs popped out, some historians now say that prisoners were often well treated and that there is only one documented case of a sailor being forced to walk the plank.

Although the *Jolly Roger* is commonly seen as a symbol of attack, it was actually a warning to surrender to avoid a fight. Only if the captain did not give up did the pirate ship hoist an all-red flag marking an impending raid.

A treasure trove of information salvaged from shipwrecks, court documents, government correspondence and statements by victims suggests that life on pirate ships was not as vicious as had been supposed.

"There was this extraordinary democracy among pirates," says David Cordingley, author of *Under the Black Flag: The Romance and the Reality of Life Among the Pirates*, which traces the creation of the romance surrounding piracy through Daniel Defoe, Robert Louis Stevenson and J.M. Barry. Pirates invariably voted on most major decisions, such as whether to attack another



Escaped slaves often had equal rights with white crew members on pirate ships and in some cases were elected captain by white sailors

vessel or where to sail next. Crews often also elected their own captains.

What is more, many blacks joined pirate ships to escape slavery and served with the same rights as the white crew. Up to a third of some pirate crews were black and some former slaves were even elected captains by predominantly white boats.

Artifacts such as African jewellery that have been hacked into pieces to be shared equally suggest a degree of equity among crew members not known on merchant vessels at the time. Typically, everyone received a share of the booty.

with two shares going to the captain, one and a half to the quartermaster and one share to other crew.

Pirates also operated a rudimentary social welfare system by offering handsome payments, akin to workmen's compensation, to pirates who lost a limb in battle and sometimes even compensating their families if they were killed.

Many pirate ships also had such rules as no smoking below decks after sunset, lights out by eight o'clock, no women or boys aboard, and no gambling because it was a frequent cause of fights. Researchers are hoping for


a bonanza of new data about the pirate's world from the recent discovery of wreckage from a fleet of French warships and buccaneer vessels that came to grief on a coral reef off Venezuela on the night of May 3, 1678.


If confirmed, the find would be only the second documented discovery of a pirate shipwreck and would provide new information about a famous disaster that decimated the French fleet and thus opened the way for the "Golden Age" of piracy that lasted from 1680 to 1725, with up to 10,000 pirates plying the trade routes. The wreckage was discovered last month by Barry Clifford, an American explorer. The team included Maxwell Kennedy, the son of the late Robert Kennedy, and his college friends, the sons of authors Norman Mailer and Stanley Karnow, both named Michael.

Mr Cordingley, a British historian, became a leading exponent of the revisionist view of pirates after organising the 1992 exhibition "Pirates: Fact and Fiction" as curator at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich.


Mr Cordingley, who studied art history at Oxford and Sussex Universities, writes that the popular image of the pirate is "a blend of historical facts overlaid with three centuries of ballads, melodramas, epic poems, romantic novels, adventure stories, comic strips and films. In the process, the pirates have acquired a romantic aura which they never had in the 17th century and which they certainly never deserved."

The book includes a chapter on women pirates, including the formidable Mrs Cheng who commanded a force of 50,000 pirates in the South China Sea in the early 19th century, as well as portraits of such figures as Blackbeard and Captain Kidd.





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Rwanda public to see executions

Government orders death in a football stadium for those guilty of Tutsis' 1994 genocide

FROM CHRIS SIMPSON IN KIGALI

RWANDA is to hold its first executions for crimes of genocide tomorrow, publicly putting to death 33 prisoners convicted after the slaughter of an estimated 800,000 people in 1994, the state radio said yesterday.

It said the executions, which diplomats expected to be by firing squad, were ordered at a special Cabinet meeting on Monday when President Bizimungu rejected pleas for amnesty. The public was invited to watch the executions in a football stadium in the capital, Kigali, and at four towns in the Central African country. They will be held less than a fortnight before the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, visits Rwanda.

Radio Rwanda, quoting a Cabinet communiqué, said the executions would "act as a lesson to people who do not respect the life of others". The radio broadcast a government warning to Hutu militiamen "bent on pursuing genocide".

Rwanda began its genocide trials in December 1996 and has condemned scores of people to death for their part in the three-month orgy of killings by Hutu extremists.



Hutus behind bars in Kigali. Rwanda's jails are packed with about 130,000 prisoners, most of them Hutus, awaiting trial for genocide

The Hutu Government was eventually driven from power. The radio said the Cabinet amended the law to allow the executions to be held in public, but did not specify how they would be carried out.

Rwanda's prisons are packed with about 130,000 prisoners — overwhelmingly Hutus — awaiting trial for the genocide. Survivors have complained about the slow pace of trials and will be mollified by the first executions. "We welcome these punishments because they will definitely do away with the culture of

impunity that has damaged our country," the Association of Peace Volunteers said. The no-nonsense process at the Rwanda trials, which are often over in a day, contrasts sharply with the slow pace at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR),

a United Nations court set up to try the ringleaders. Officials at the ICTR in Arusha, Tanzania, said they still had no date for the tribunal's first verdict. Four years after the genocide, the Government says many of those responsible are at large and are to blame for a

bloody insurgency by Hutu rebels in parts of the country. Diplomats said they had heard from government sources that 24 co-accused would be put to death. But the Information Minister, Jean Ndayinzira, said he had a list of 33 names. (Reuters)

WORLD IN BRIEF

Cyprus protest over live-fire exercises

Nicosia: British troops carrying out live-fire exercises in one of the most beautiful and unspoilt parts of Cyprus yesterday found themselves fighting a public battle with environmentalists and campaigners against the military bases (Michael Theodorou writes).

Greens accused the army of going ahead with the war games despite warnings that the lives of protesters hiding on the range would be endangered. There had also been appeals from the Government to halt live-fire exercises while it tried to find another site. Environmentalists say that the army's activities on the rugged Akamas peninsula are a fire hazard to the scrubby woodland and threaten the nesting sites of rare and endangered turtles on nearby beaches.

Netanyahu to see Mubarak

Jerusalem: Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, is to fly to Cairo next Tuesday for his first meeting in a year with Egypt's President Mubarak (Christopher Walker writes). The summit was suggested by the Egyptian leader in a telephone conversation. It will come amid a sudden increase in the peacemaking momentum in the run-up to the peace talks in London on May 4 initiated by Tony Blair during his recent whistle-stop tour of the Middle East.

French MPs vote for euro

Paris: France's parliament voted in favour of adopting Europe's new single currency — by 334-49. Deputies from the Socialist Party and the conservative Union for French Democracy voted for the measure, and the Communists and the Socialist-allied Movement of Citizens voted against. President Chirac's Gaullist RPR, with his approval, withheld its support to express its reservations over Lionel Jospin's economic policy. (Le Monde said. AP)

Honduran plea ignored

Phoenix, Arizona: José Roberto Villafuerte, 45, a Honduran man convicted for the 1983 murder of his girlfriend, was executed by lethal injection early yesterday despite an appeal by the President of Honduras. Villafuerte allegedly showed no remorse, saying that he "loved everybody", and telling his victim's son that he would "be with the Lord". He had maintained his innocence to the end. (Reuters)

China revives Taiwan talks

Beijing: Taiwanese negotiators arrived here for the first talks with China since it staged war games in the Taiwan Strait nearly three years ago over a private visit to America by the Taiwan President, Lee Teng-Hui, right (James Pringle writes). Since the 1949 civil war, China has regarded Taiwan as a renegade province. It interpreted Mr Lee's US visit as a push by his Government for independence.



Model sues 'kinky' tycoon

New York: Inga Banasewycz, 28, a former model, has filed a \$3.5 million (£2 million) lawsuit against a Wall Street tycoon with an "insatiable sexual appetite" after he broke off their long, and allegedly kinky, affair (James Bone writes). She claims that Orhan Setlik-Khan, 70, agreed to pay her to have his baby, then insisted she abort two pregnancies. His wife, Karen, called the lawsuit extortion.

Mandela to read judges the riot act over their apartheid ways

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICAN judges who enthusiastically served apartheid but have failed to get to grips with the new democracy are likely to fall under President Mandela's spotlight in the wake of a High Court ruling that overturned his plans to launch an inquiry into racism in rugby.

Mr Mandela will hold private talks over dinner with High Court judges in Cape Town and later with judges in KwaZulu/Natal this month. Government sources said he

will make it clear he is unhappy with their slow pace of change from willing servants of apartheid to the backbone of a democracy.

When Judge William de Villiers last week backed the South African Rugby Union's petition to prevent Mr Mandela from launching an inquiry into nepotism and racism in the sport's administration, the African National Congress and government members were quick to insist they did not question the judiciary's independence.

But these remarks, a wide gulf between this constitutional concept

and the attitudes of individual judges. Judge de Villiers angered independent commentators and the Government when he offered no reasons for the decision, and awarded costs against the Government.

Many have noted that he may have favoured Louis Luyt, the rugby president, over Mr Mandela — whom he forced to appear in court — because of long-standing ties in the right-wing Afrikaner community.

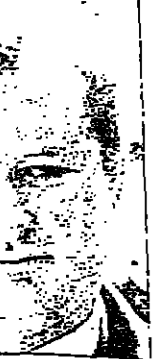
KwaZulu/Natal has been a hotbed of controversy over who will succeed John Broom as the province's deputy judge-president. Reformists favour a black contender, Vuka Tshabalala, who has spent most of the past 30 years as a Durban barrister. Conservative judges, anxious to block his appointment, have signed a petition saying he would be rejected because he was a "junior judge". Their favoured candidate, Judge Willem Booysse, is a former executive member of the Broederbond — the shadowy right-wing Afrikaner nationalist movement that backed the Nazis in the Second World War.

The dinners with judges are part of Mr Mandela's pre-election campaign to speed up the pace of transformation in South Africa. Large sections of the black majority and their media spokesmen have begun to attack the ANC for a "soft approach" to unrepentant whites.

White farmers, for example, have come to expect light sentences from white judges when convicted of injuring or killing blacks on their land. Resultant racial tension and the Government's lackadaisical approach to crime has led to a wave of killings of white farmers: two in their seventies were shot dead in North-west province last week.

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COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE. The Queen held a Council at 12.40. There were present: The Rt Hon Lord Chancellor... BUCKINGHAM PALACE. April 22: The Duke of York...

Memorial service

Lord Kings Norton. The Princess Royal, Patron of the Cranford Trust, was represented by Mr Donald Blackwell... Ashford School, Kent. Summer Term starts today with Nadia Hussain Head Girl...



Four of the new stamps featuring British comedians who have died in the past 20 years. They show, clockwise from top left, Tommy Cooper, Eric Morecambe, Peter Cook and Joyce Grenfell. They will be on sale from today.

School news

Ashford School, Kent. Summer Term starts today with Nadia Hussain Head Girl, Day and Eleanor Greenlee Head Girl... Merchant Taylors' School. Summer term at Merchant Taylors' School begins on Monday...

Birthdays today

Lady Gabriella Windsor celebrates her 17th birthday today. Mrs Shirley Temple Black, former actress and American diplomat, 70...

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.E.H. Anderson and Miss C.A.L. Macdonald. The engagement is announced between Charles, son of the late Mr and Mrs Alexis Anderson... Mr A.S. Davidson and Miss D.B. MacMillan...

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

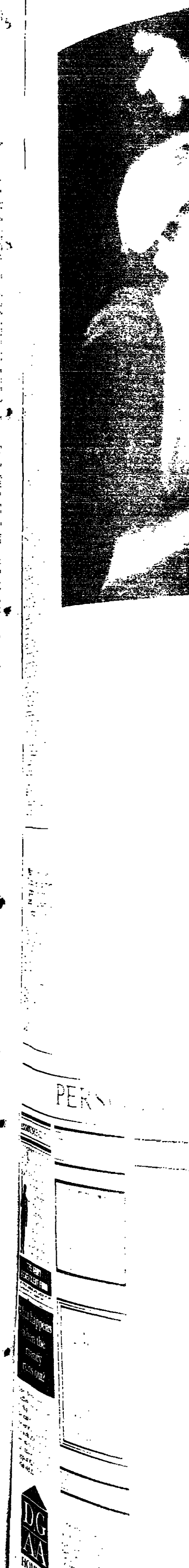
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NEWS

Meltdown on World Cup hotline

Millions of telephones were slammed down in anger across Europe yesterday as French attempts to sell the last 110,000 World Cup soccer tickets descended into chaos.

Linda McCartney inquiry launched

Linda McCartney's swift cremation last week was carried out without the necessary paperwork, according to officials at the Santa Barbara coroner's office.

Superbug discovered

A strain of bacteria resistant to all known antibiotics has been discovered during routine screening by scientists at the Public Health Laboratory at Collingdale in North London.

Recruitment drive

The Army has launched its new 'gender fair' physical recruitment tests aimed at helping women and the unfit.

Rape charges

A Cleveland policeman raped two teenage girls and indecently assaulted four women after using his position to lure them to his house.

Call to action

Nurses were urged to seize control of the National Health Service from management yesterday in order to preserve staffing levels and guarantee quality care for patients.

Organist dismissed

Marin Neary, the organist at Westminster Abbey, was dismissed yesterday after being accused of 'gross misconduct' by the Dean.

German election

A publisher is spending more than £1 million on a regional election in eastern Germany in an attempt to persuade the country's young voters to back the far right.

Garden harvest

Digging for clues in an English country garden proved to be a £350,000 revelation for detectives on the trail of antiques stolen from stately homes.

Sale of the century

A plan to sell the Colosseum and other monuments as part of the Italian Government's privatisation programme has caused uproar.

Temperature gauge

The rising temperatures of the late 20th century are firmly linked to man-made causes, according to the latest American research.

Fire alert

Fires that devastated part of Brazil were fuelled by landowners and ranchers who allegedly torched lands to cash in on compensation.

Marquess moves

The 43-year-old Marquess of Bristol, who has struggled with drug addiction, has sold his rights to live in the family's ancestral home.

Sharp card

The United States has introduced a Green Card packed with technology in a bid to combat illegal immigration.

City boys are trading places

The London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe) announced yesterday that it is to introduce computer-based trading by the end of next year.



Thousands of lorry drivers were left stranded outside Dover for a second day because of action by French seamen

BUSINESS

Banking: Two more American banks are locked in a merger battle. The Bank of New York made a hostile bid of \$24 billion for the Mellon Bank of Pittsburgh.

SPORT

Football: After his bravura performance for England B. it was said, but significant, to hear Matthew Le Tissier play down his World Cup chances.

ARTS

Diamanté Dame: Australia's answer to charges of perfect taste and social discretion, Dame Edna Everage, is back on the West End stage.

FEATURES

Dr Thomas Stuttaford: Screening for cancers of the colon and rectum and how aspirin can cut the incidence of the diseases: shaking a baby can cause irreparable brain damage.

Thomson: Pilots at Britannia, the charter airline owned by Thomson Travel Group, are threatening to strike just as the company prepares for its flotation.

Rugby union: Pat Whelan has resigned as manager of Ireland after 30 months in charge of the team. He wants to spend more time on his business.

Mainstream Coppola: The great American maverick director has jumped on the John Grisham bandwagon for his latest film, The Rainmaker, the week's new movies reviewed.

Israel's 50th: As a British Jew in the media, Vanessa Feltz has come to expect hate mail. Along with others, she talks about her attitude to Israel. The second part of a series on the Jewish State.

Furniture: Sir Graham Kirkham, chairman of DFS Furniture, has stunned investors by issuing the second profits warning in two months. DFS shares fell from 319p to 286p.

Bryant's Eye: Anyone in a desperate panic about completing the Flora London Marathon should consider hiring a beguiler. Music is a powerful secret weapon in sport.

Godfather of salsa: At the age of 80 Ruben Gonzalez, a spy Cuban grandfather, has staged a remarkable comeback with his vibrant keyboard playing. He's at the Barbican on Saturday.

Best buys: Top breaks for the May Bank Holiday: special deals for holidays in Tunisia; take the pilgrim path to a 10th-century church in Tuscany.

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index fell 23.9 points to close at 5931.1. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 106.3 to 106.2.

Prodigal daughter: The violinist Hilary Hahn is determined to be marketed for her playing rather than her looks.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford: Screening for cancers of the colon and rectum and how aspirin can cut the incidence of the diseases: shaking a baby can cause irreparable brain damage.

Israel's 50th: As a British Jew in the media, Vanessa Feltz has come to expect hate mail. Along with others, she talks about her attitude to Israel. The second part of a series on the Jewish State.



DAVID CHARLES

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

EDUCATION The school whose deprived children top exam league tables

MEDIA A baby death, Deirdre's jailing, sexual confession, surrogate pregnancy, a gas explosion... TV's soaps pile on the drama

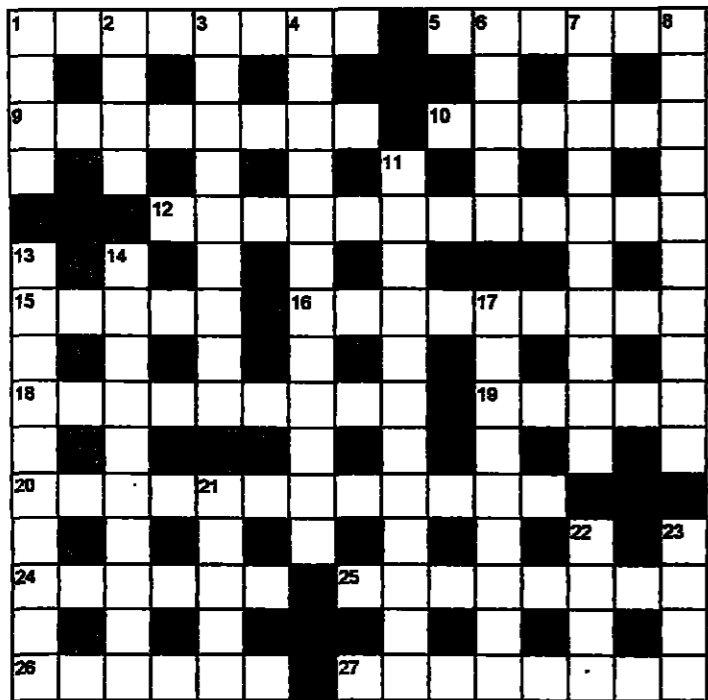
Best buys: Top breaks for the May Bank Holiday: special deals for holidays in Tunisia; take the pilgrim path to a 10th-century church in Tuscany.

Mr Blair's infectious enthusiasm and plain doggedness has counted for something. It is hard to see, though, that what has been impossible to achieve in repeated visits to Washington by Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat will be possible in London.

Joan Heal, actress: Alberto Sartoris, architect

Uranium transfer: Cabinet decision-making

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,773



- ACROSS
1 Dynamic Miss Oakley, it is announced, has married (8).
5 Wicked warriors calling for silence (6).
9 Can it stir up a disproportionately violent storm? (8).
10 Accounts officer's resistance to contract at first (6).
12 Man taking heroin in punch. Surplus shirt-tail is plainly visible (5).
16 Getting annoyed in the middle of stirring food (9).
18 Though pretty fast, no trains move with the speed of light (9).
19 One of two books coming to pieces (5).
20 Study simply intended, say, for further revision (12).

Solution to Puzzle No 20772
L A M P L I G H T R U S E S
I O U T H R I G H T
F A U L T I N A U G U R A L
E N E R G I C A L
L A T E R A L E N D I N G
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G O E I L O P R
P R I N T A B L E A L P H A
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R A T T Y G R A N D S L A M

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World City Weather
153 destinations world wide
6 day forecast

Motoring
Europe Country by Country
European fuel costs

AA Car reports by fax
New and used car reports from the AA

HOURS OF DARKNESS
Sun rises: Sun sets:
Moon sets: Moon rises:

New moon April 26
London 8:10 pm to 5:47 am
Bristol 8:20 pm to 5:37 am

FORECAST

General: eastern Scotland and England will have a dry and bright morning once any remaining overnight rain has cleared.
SW England, Wales, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland: showers this morning, becoming brighter this afternoon.

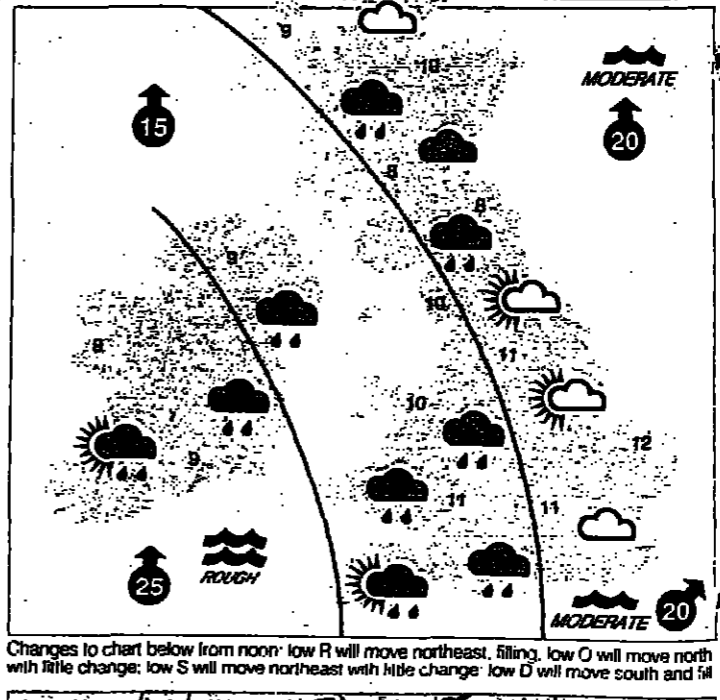
AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, max, min, wind, and other weather metrics for various UK locations.

ABROAD

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, max, min, wind, and other weather metrics for various international locations.

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: low R will move northeast, filling. low Q will move north with little change.

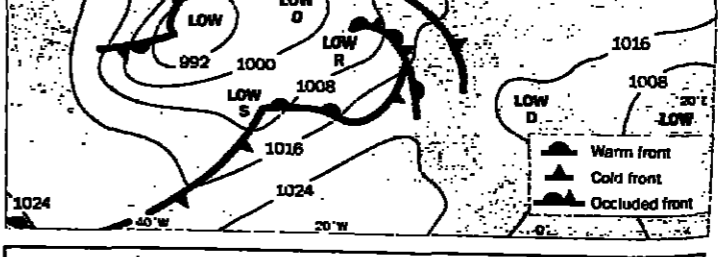


Table with columns for location, AM, HT, PM, and other weather metrics for various UK locations.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day time: Hornsea, and London Weather Centre 22C (72F); lowest day time: Llanelli, 8.9C (48F); highest rainfall: Southport, 1.2cm; highest sunshine: Folkestone, 7.3h.

Advertisement for travel insurance: 'However many times you hop across to Europe you're covered with our travel insurance. From £49.95 a year. To enrol call quoting reference TWB11. 0800 700 737. No need to compromise.'

Handwritten notes on the right margin: 'THE BOX', 'Bank of...', 'Mellon', 'Life dete...', 'publica...', 'propo...', 'reforma...'.



THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION
2
TODAY



BUSINESS
On the cards:
PCs tune into
digital radio
PAGE 31



ARTS
The gifted teenager
who won't mix
sex with violins
PAGES 36-39



SPORT
Follet aiming to
make big impact
in boxing world
PAGES 44-52

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO**
PAGES
50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY APRIL 23 1998

Bank of New York launches sector's biggest hostile bid

Mellon Bank under \$24bn siege

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

BANK OF NEW YORK yesterday launched the global financial sector's biggest hostile takeover bid with a \$24 billion (£14.3 billion) offer for Mellon Bank to form a new US retail banking behemoth.

The offer is seen by Wall Street as the start to a battle with Bank of New York expected to face rival bidders. Yesterday's bid comes after Bank of New York was twice rebuffed by Mellon. Talks broke down four months ago and efforts by Bank of New York to discuss its latest offer on Monday failed. The main disagreement is said to be over boardroom positions.

Thomas Renyi, the Bank of New York chairman, wrote to Frank Cahouet, Mellon chairman, saying: "Our inability to bring these discussions to completion has, I know, been disappointing for both of us. I remain totally convinced, as I believe you do, that the combination of our two companies would make compelling business sense."

Mellon replied with a public statement: "We are not in negotiations with Bank of New York or anyone else. We are not interested in pursuing a transaction — we are not for sale." Mellon has been widely seen as a takeover target, especially because Mr Cahouet, 65, has not appointed a successor which should make it easier to combine his board with that of a competitor.

Under Bank of New York's proposal, Mr Cahouet would be chairman of the merged bank until the end of the year when he would hand over to Mr Renyi, who would also be chief executive. Bank of New York offers 1.4 shares of its stock for each Mellon share, paying \$90 a share, a 28 per cent premium over Mellon's last closing price of \$70 per share.

US banking has been caught up in a merger frenzy over recent months. Commercial and investment banks have been spurred into renewed merger and takeover activity by the \$146 billion tie-up of Citicorp and Travelers Group, the world's biggest deal, two weeks ago. But so far the merger wave had not included any significant hostile bids.

Bank of New York is one of the few US banks to have gained from making a hostile acquisition. After being rebuffed for 12 months by Irving Trust in 1988, it succeeded with a \$1.4 billion offer. Recently, the only sizeable US hostile bank takeover was Wells Fargo's 1996 purchase of First Interstate Bancorp for \$13 billion.

Bank of New York was founded in 1784 by Alexander Hamilton, the founding father, and is the nation's oldest bank operating under its original name. Mellon was founded in 1869 as Mellon and Sons, and financed the growth of industrial powers such as Westinghouse, Gulf Oil, Alcoa and Bethlehem Steel. Together they would have a market capitalisation of \$50 billion and trade under the name Mellon Bank of New York.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET	
FTSE 100	5981.1 (-23.9)
Yield	2.70%
FTSE All share	2785.28 (-5.92)
Nikkei	15761.54 (-64.13)
New York	
Dow Jones	9188.67 (+3.73)*
S&P Composite	1131.07 (+4.40)*
US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.25% (5.25)
Long Bond	102.28 (102.28)
Yield	5.95% (5.95%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	7.75% (7.75)
Libor 3m	7.75% (7.75)
Libor 6m	7.75% (7.75)
Libor 12m	7.75% (7.75)
3-month Euro	108.75 (108.75)
6-month Euro	108.75 (108.75)
12-month Euro	108.75 (108.75)
COMMODITIES	
Brent 15-day (Jul)	\$14.75 (\$14.85)
WTI	\$14.75 (\$14.85)
London close	\$313.05 (\$308.25)

Liffe defers publication of proposal for reform

By RICHARD MILES

LIFFE, the London futures and options exchange, failed to placate its critics yesterday after it deferred publication of detailed proposals on reform of its corporate structure and electronic trading.

After a two-day meeting, the exchange's board instead issued a strategy statement indicating that outside firms would be allowed to trade on the market through the use of new technology.

Annual report on UK plc

TONY BLAIR is to publish a company-style report on UK plc in May to mark the Government's first anniversary in power (Richard Miles writes). The report will detail targets for the year, and whether they have been achieved. Its contents will be gathered from the departments of state but it will not be audited by external accountants. Although the format has not been finalised, the information will be presented in a similar fashion to company reports, accompanied by glossy pictures of UK businesses. It is not clear whether Mr Blair will style himself chairman or chief executive, or ignore the Cadbury code on corporate governance and claim both titles.

Spitalfields has been postponed until later in the year. Liffe has been forced into action by the growing threat from its arch-rival in Frankfurt, Deutsche TerminBörse, which has eschewed open outcry dealing in favour of technology, has wrested control of the key German bund futures market away from London, and dealers fear it could claim other markets. The Liffe board has commissioned further analysis to determine whether its complex shareholding structure, to which trading permits are tied, could be overhauled with a view to enabling outside firms to trade. It also hopes to attract third-party shareholders. At present, Liffe is owned by its 214 members, ranging from investment banks to local traders. Ownership of one of the six classes of share entitles the firm to deal on the exchange. Demutualisation has been ruled out, because Liffe is not a mutual. Jack Wigglesworth, chairman, said such a structure was not suitable if in the future dealing was to be carried out remotely through tens of thousands of screens. Instead, access would be based on fees, perhaps linked to transaction levels. Mr Wigglesworth said the likely basis for the new automated trading system would be the software it is currently developing for equity options. Full, 24-hour electronic trading remains scheduled for the fourth quarter next year. Mr Wigglesworth said the use of third-party systems had not been ruled out if they speeded up implementation. The strategy statement was insufficient to appease one of Liffe's fiercest critics, David Kye, who resigned from the board in protest at its inability to modernise. He said: "What I've seen today justifies my decision to step down."



Sir Graham Kirkham pointed to the poor Easter weather as he told investors that second-half profits would be lower than those for the first half

DFS issues second warning

SIR Graham Kirkham, chairman of DFS Furniture, stunned investors yesterday by issuing a second profits warning in two months (Sarah Cunningham writes). The company said second-half profits will be below those in the first half, mainly because of bad weather at Easter. DFS shares fell 32.5p to 286.5p. Interim pre-tax profits, which Sir Graham claims were hit by a drop in spending at the time of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, were down from £18.7 million to £18.2 million in the six months to January 31. Sales, excluding new stores, were down 4.9 per cent in the first half. Sir Graham refused to give a like-for-like figure for the first few weeks of the second half. He said DFS had replied to a letter from the London Stock Exchange inquiring about recent sharp share price moves but was unaware whether the LSE was going to inquire into the matter further.

Sacked Biotech executive talks to US regulators

By PAUL DURMAN

THE sacked head of clinical research at British Biotech has taken his concerns about the company's drug programmes to the US Food and Drug Administration and the Securities and Exchange Commission. Andrew Millar, dismissed on Monday for disclosing confidential information to shareholders, has told the FDA, the world's most important drug regulator, that there needs to be an interim analysis of the data emerging from trials of Zacetix, British Biotech's pancreatic drug, and marimastat, its cancer drug. Mr Millar has also contacted the SEC to offer help with its formal investigation into allegedly misleading press releases on marimastat issued by the company in 1995 and 1996. As *The Times* has

City cheered by jobs and earnings news

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE City reacted favourably to job figures yesterday showing a further modest fall in unemployment, and to steady earnings growth. Both claimant count unemployment and the internationally recognised ILO definition, which yesterday took over as the headline measure of British unemployment, fell, but at a slower pace than in recent months. The ILO measure fell by 52,000 in the three months to February — to 1.86 million. This compares with a decline of 129,000 in the previous three-month period. The ILO measure includes people who are searching for work but who are not eligible for benefit. The claimant count dropped by 6,400 to 1.38 million compared with an average monthly decline over the past three months of 9,000 and an aver-

age of 17,000 a month in the last six months. The City had expected claimant unemployment to fall by about 10,000. The pound dipped below DM3.00 in reaction to the figures, which, together with news that average earnings growth was 4.5 per cent in January, unchanged from December, were taken to support a growing view that interest rates have now peaked. Separate figures on lending offered ambiguous evidence. The British Bankers Association said that their mortgage lending rose by only a modest £450 million in March, weaker than recent figures, but building societies reported strong demand for mortgages and the BBA said that consumer credit rose by more than £700 million, the largest monthly rise since this statistical series began in 1986.

Leschly astonished by Glaxo retreat

By PAUL DURMAN

JAN LESCHLY, chief executive of SmithKline Beecham, yesterday told MPs of his "astonishment" when he learned that Glaxo Wellcome would not consummate the two pharmaceutical companies' £100 billion merger. Mr Leschly told the Science and Technology Select Committee: "Still to this day I do not have any explanation as to what happened in Glaxo in that 20-day period." He was referring to period between the announcement of merger plans at the end of January and a meeting in New York at which Sir Richard Sykes, Glaxo Wellcome's chairman, the deal "would not work and would never work" with Mr Leschly as chief executive — as had previously been agreed. He said the deal did not founder on people issues, despite "a lot of talk about egos". He said the fundamental problem was that Glaxo Wellcome had "backed away from a deal based on a merger of equals". He said SmithKline Beecham was a very strong company that did not need a merger, and was not prepared to accept a takeover without Glaxo Wellcome paying a premium. George Poste, SB's chief science and technology officer, said an unwelcome takeover could have done irreparable damage to "a genuine scientific asset of this nation" — a reference to the scientists that work for the company.

Glaxo blamed, page 32

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Main table containing unit trust prices for various funds, including columns for fund name, price, and change. Funds listed include ABQ EQUITY UNIT TRUST, CANADIAN LIFE INVESTMENT, and many others.

Advertisement for Thomson Travel Group with the headline 'Don't miss the float.' and 'Deadline for applications is 12 noon, Thursday 7 May 1998.'

Text block providing details about the Thomson Travel Group advertisement, including contact information and terms of the offer.

Continuation of unit trust price data, listing various international and specialty funds with their respective prices and changes.

Buyers stay away

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: BANKS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: BREWERIES, PUBS & REST.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: BUILDING MATERIALS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: ELECTRICITY.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: ELECTRONIC & ELECT.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: CHEMICALS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: CONSTRUCTION.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: ENGINEERING.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: INSURANCE.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: DISTRIBUTORS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: INVESTMENT TRUSTS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: MEDIA.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: FOOD MANUFACTURERS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: HEALTHCARE.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: LEISURE & HOTELS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: OIL & GAS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: BRITISH FUNDS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: SHORTS (under 5 years).

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: LONGS (over 15 years).

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: UNDATED.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of 5%.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years).

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: OTHER FINANCIAL.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: PHARMACEUTICALS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: PRINTING & PAPER.

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Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

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Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: WATER.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: RETAILERS - FOOD.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: RETAILERS - GENERAL.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET.

PA Consulting Group advertisement: SHORT TERM MANAGEMENT PROBLEM? We have the solution!

Advertisement for PA Consulting Group, featuring an image of a person climbing a rope.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: SHORTS (under 5 years).

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: LEISURE & HOTELS.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, Volume. Section: OIL & GAS.

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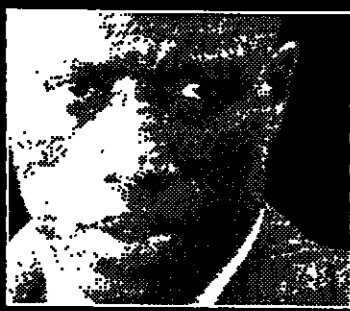
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Creating his characters on the hoof: Barry Humphries gives us cultural ambassador Sir Les Patterson and the peerless Dame Edna Everage

Bringer of gladdie tidings

For the first time in ten years London audiences can see in the flesh the Diamanté Dame, Australia's all-time answer to charges of perfect taste and social discretion. Not that flesh is much in evidence except for the pale hands and the plump, twistily smiling face that can unerringly resemble the late Otto Klemperer after his stroke.

McConnel all the tunes. It remains a musical until the interval, providing valuable biographical material concerning Edna's early life — the faithful Madge Allsop's younger days, too — and their convict ancestors. After the interval Dame Edna appears before us in shocking pink, ruffled with silver, and does the interactive mockery at which she has no peer.

New Edna — The Spectacle Haymarket

dialogue and songs here, and in the courtroom. Newgate and convict ship scenes that immediately follow, are the high spots of the musical half. Convicted of stealing a gladioli, the ancestral Edna, a waif with purple curls, sings "Why am I mauve?" prettily.

"Now comes the bit where all the tunes are sung at once," sing the chorus, and so they do, cabin boy, crew and whores together.

Dame Edna's direct engagement with the audience is so entertaining, brooking as she does no refusal by some unfortunate to answer her interrogation, is not just because the blushingfortunates appear to take the exposure of their poor dress sense or whatever in good part. As we see Edna's lips chew her teeth as her brain contrives an apt tart line, we recognise that here is a performance that is being created moment by moment, on the hoof.

JEREMY KINGSTON
This review appeared in late editions of The Times yesterday

Filthy old devil

Don Juan
Miss Gifford

Contemporary Scottish playwrights have had a love affair with Molière for more than a decade now. Iain Heggie's new version of *Don Juan*, which began its tour at Musselburgh's Brunton Theatre, is no mere exercise in couthy rhyming couplets and carefully placed doubles entendres, though. Always the most foul-mouthed of writers, Heggie was talking dirty and dragging theatre into the gutter before Scotland's current crop of literary renegades had even learnt how to talk with a genuine Leith accent.

love and so full of hate. Don Juan here has clearly been damaged somewhere along the line, something Henry Ian Cusick's dangerous, on-edge performance makes abundantly clear. But it is Juan's denial of matters spiritual that makes him really screwed up.

Chamber plot

There are Crimes and Crimes
Haymarket's Lesley

Sometimes with August Strindberg it is difficult to know where the great Swede ends and therapy begins. So it is with this rarely performed work that barely merits a mention in the reference books that collate his roaring oeuvre. The shock is that he created this strange cocktail at all, a "boulevard comedy" set in Paris at the turn of century.

make the play feel emptier, smaller and creepier than it is. His is a boulevard painting with too few actors to fill the canvas. Jeanne and Maurice look more like touch judges than husband and wife as they canter backwards and forwards across the set. She elects to stay at home, out of sight, out of mind, while Maurice thrills Paris with his new play and steals his best friend's glamorous, mysterious girlfriend, Henriette.

POP: American blues guitarist fills the Albert Hall; plus the band still happy to be out of sync

Night of the living dread Soldiering on

Ben Harper
Albert Hall

IT WAS entertaining to see the shock on the faces of fans entering the Albert Hall auditorium on Monday evening. With American blues guitarist Ben Harper not due on stage for an hour, and less than half of the capacity crowd already in their seats, Paul Weller had appeared unannounced to play an impromptu support set.

Moreover, despite enjoying the extra entertainment, it was without doubt Harper whom the audience wanted to see. The near-hysterical reaction that greeted his arrival proved the point. As the tall, dreadlocked guitarist took his seat centrestage, deafening screams from the surprisingly young crowd all but drowned out his opening words.

his lap and plucked with both fiery passion and studied respect could not have failed to impress.

LIKE the Japanese soldiers stationed deep in the jungle who remained unaware for many years that the Second World War had ended, so various groups continue to fight a lost cause long after the rest of the world would judge it more prudent to quit.

New Model Army
Astoria, WC2

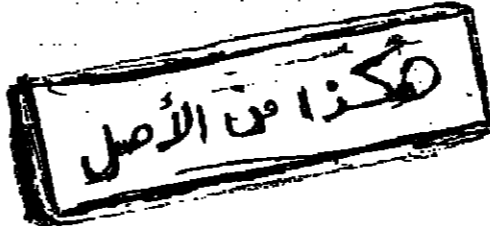
with cool, stylishly progressive post-Britpop Britain.

LISA VERRICO

DAVID SINCLAIR

كذا من الأصل

Coppola
Exonerat
by appe
City of a



Beaten by the rhythm

IN THEIR heyday, they were big: they drew the people to New York's Madison Square Garden, for anyone since the Beatles...

Andy Sumner Pizza Express, W1

Growing up with bites of Bach

Hilary Hahn is one teenage violinist resolved not to be marketed as a glamour-puss, as she tells John Allison

When does a child prodigy become a grown-up artist? Some never do, others reach astonishing maturity while still in their teens.

Hilary Hahn, the 18-year-old American violinist who makes her UK debut next week in three concerts with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra under Lorin Maazel...

Hahn, who looks even more youthful than she is, also stands apart in a world where young female violinists are heavily marketed by record companies...

When only recently she signed up with one of the big agencies it was, she says, because at last she felt ready for international management.

There is something special about an artist who can make a disc in such a crowded corner of the market and bring so much individuality to it.

There is something special about an artist who can make a disc in such a crowded corner of the market and bring so much individuality to it.

What is it about Bach that appeals, when young musicians gravitate towards more

showy composers? "It's honest music, very pure, very difficult to play. Somehow it's complex but very straightforward.

Hahn's repertoire is extensive, though by her own admission it features relatively little contemporary music.

Her repertoire includes no fewer than 29 concertos, among them the Beethoven she plays here next week.

Perhaps it is Hahn's good fortune in having always been well and unselfishly advised that has made her so relaxed about facing the pressures of the international music circuit.

They also follow Baltimore and Brodsky: the story of Hahn's life so far has been shaped by the letter B.

I started studying at the Curtis Institute with Mr Brodsky when I was ten and he was 83: He was born in 1907, and he was a pupil of the

great Ysaÿe, who was born in the 1850s. That's a pretty unusual connection to have at the end of this century.

This life isn't pressure, it's a great chance

Percussive miss of a hit

Have you ever wondered what happened to the dwarf Alberich after the end of Wagner's Ring? One theory is that he made his way to England and opened a pawnbroker's shop in Whitechapel.

Michael Tilson Thomas's account of Mahler's Fifth Symphony. But there were also some good things. Best of all was the exuberant finale, where the panache of orchestra and conductor were heard to greatest advantage.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Finely attuned to the past

THE Vienna Sextet was founded in order to maintain the Viennese style rather than to develop it, and it is living proof that in the musical world of increasingly anodyne internationalism there is a distinct Viennese string style.

The absolute match of timbres made Strauss's Capriccio sextet a delight. The nearness of cellist Rudolph Leopold's lithe voice to the violas made for a seamless intertwining.



Queen Elizabeth Hall

There are moments when a more powerful tenor was needed and here it came from first violinist Thomas Kiebel.

there is a bleakness to the piece in its uncertain minor opening, which finds echoes in Schoenberg's Verklärte Nacht, with its slow despairing tread and threatened love.

HELEN WALLACE

Interminable summer nights



Philharmonie Orchestra

ford, Newbury and Crawley in May, under the baton of Paul Daniel, all will be revealed.

Once the wild strawberries have been picked in the opening song, Les Nuits d'été is hardly a scherzo. But neither should it feel like an extended dirge.

Were these really the tempos Rigby had chosen? Or was Mikhail Pletnev, as indulgent in this Berlin as in the preceding Carnival Roman overture, holding her back?

HILARY FINCH GERALD LARNER

NEW CLASSICAL CDs: Decca's Turkish delight; streamlined Schoenberg; and English songs

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Turco is essentially an ensemble opera, its success depending on a cast playing to and for one another.

ORCHESTRAL Barry Millington

SCHOENBERG Verklärte Nacht String Quartet No 2 Stockholm CO/Salonen Sony SK 62725 *** £15.49

RECITAL Hilary Finch

QUILTER Songs Milne/Rolle Johnson Collins Classics IS122 *** £14.49

CONFERENCE

CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

CONFERENCE

And, since it is also St George's Day, there are other English poets aplenty for the setting: Shelley, Tennyson — and Ernest Dowson, here proving irresistible to Quilter and to Rolle Johnson in his Passing Dreams of those "days of wine and roses".

Virtuoso with visuals



"I've been practising Bach every day since I was about eight," says the 18-year-old American prodigy, Hilary Hahn

JOANNA MacGREGOR has clearly got something right. Her SoundCircus concert attracted a bigger audience than anything else in the International Society for Contemporary Music's World Music Days so far.



Joanna MacGregor Manchester

— and a proportion of the audience wasn't sure whether she was playing Harrison Birtwistle or Conlon Nan-carrow, the most helpful projection would have been "you are now listening to".

None of this would matter if MacGregor were not a pianist with a formidable technique, a refreshingly open mind and, above all, the combination of imagination and dedication that inspires composers to write something special for her.

Advertisement for THE TIMES Creme 98, featuring technology, business travel, and seminars. Includes contact information for registration and venue details.

The pros and cons of literal thinking: Peter Stothard takes a look at a new New Testament and an old Irish monk

Thirty years ago there was an Essex schoolmaster who had his own way of turning his pupils into almost-ancient Greeks...

Which words in the beginning?

useful is it? Does it deliver what its adherents claim? For one small group of readers, those who know Greek but whose language is either too little learnt or too much forgotten to allow texts to be read with ease...

THE NEW TESTAMENT A new translation by Richmond Lattimore Dent, £25 ISBN 0 460 87953 7



Mark: rough and ready

special attention to the Gospel of St Mark which he sees, rightly, as the key text for those concerned with closeness to the original Greek life of Christ.

explorations of John. This inferiority is fully recognised by the first known commentary on St Mark, which dates from the 7th century...

about describes his subject — and so Mark largely remained for a millennium. Then in 1835 the German Homer scholar Karl Lachmann suggested the devastating theory that has survived all challenges since — that Mark's is the first of the Gospels and one of the two main sources of its successors.

be treated as though he were Herodotus. Take, for example, the word euthus which in classical Greek and sometimes in Mark means "immediately". Mark often uses the word, however, to mean "and then" or "and so", rather as a child strings together main clauses without proper pause or connection.

writes. "as when a man sows his seed in the ground, and sleeps and wakes night and day, and the seed grows and increases without his knowing it: for of itself the earth bears fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain gives its yield, he puts forth the sickle, for the time of harvesting is come."

The faces of the deep

An anthology reveals one ocean of water and another of the imagination, Paul Watkins discovers

How much do we know about the sea? "Grant's latest edition. Out on the trackless waves, we are all of us trespassers, and are united in the very act of trespassing...

had swollen greatly... his back was now as wide and flat as a slab. The T-shirt stretched across it advertising a brand of paint was already going in ovals at the seams. His shorts were likewise cracking as though the buttocks beneath were plumped with silicone.

THE SEA Granta 61 ISBN 0 931 14116 7 Jean Gaumy's outstanding photo-essay of deep-sea fishermen, take on a solidity of purpose and information which, unfairly but perhaps inevitably, dominates many of the other pieces.

the John Brown Shipyard in Clydebank, which built the QE2 shortly before the collapse of the industry in the early 1970s. These are accompanied by page-long reminiscences, a particularly effective technique in the tradition of Peter Matthiessen's Men's Lives, which similarly charted the lives of New York's Long Island fishing community.

in Charles Nicholl's Conversation with a Giant. The middle section of the book represents a more literal breakdown of storytelling, containing Paul Theroux's list of the Unspeakable Rituals of Pacific Islanders, who eat cats, throw excrement at each other and lock their prospective leaders in chambers filled with rats.



Hard work, not romance: line-fishing for tuna, photograph by Jean Gaumy

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Don't cut out and keep

On August 2, 1997, the American author William S. Burroughs died peacefully in Lawrence, Kansas, at the age of 83. So now, less than a year later, I suppose we shouldn't be surprised by the appearance on this year's tide of a festschrift of books about Burroughs.

Marianne Wiggins THE "PRIEST". THEY CALLED HIM The Life and Legacy of William S. Burroughs By Graham Caveney Bloomsbury, £20 ISBN 0 7475 3329 6

produced in Burroughs's own handwriting at the end of the revised introduction to With William Burroughs, a volume of interviews by Victor Bockris, do not feature at all in the flashy new little piece of propaganda, The "Priest", They Called Him: The Life and Legacy of William S. Burroughs by Graham Caveney.



William Burroughs makes a point to Allen Ginsberg

watch, without actually reading, while turning the pages. It's a book market-targeted for 1990s post-Beat, Post-Modern, post-punk, Ecstatic yooof. And why not? The bone in the craw of this invention isn't the brazen construction, it's that Caveney and his publishing company want to appropriate only that bit of Burroughs that will flig this particular book. Nineties' yooof, they've obviously reckoned, doesn't want to know about some of 'codger in Kansas scribbling out his dying words about the redemption of Love. The Burroughs they want to market this decade is the Burroughs of self-destructive genius, the Burroughs-as-heroin-junkie. Burroughs as granddaddy of punk and pop music.

The land that is a time bomb... You'll need a good map... All the colours of...

هكذا من الأصل

Bargains of the week: from cycling in the Cotswolds to the historic sites of Turkey's mountainous interior



PACK YOUR BAGS... A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and further afield, many at bargain prices.

BRITAIN

THE MAY DAY Bank Holiday offers an excellent opportunity for a spring weekend break and Country Holidays has cottages available from May 1 to 4, including a converted stone barn near Buxton and a half-timbered cottage overlooking the Wye Valley.

BOTH MAY Bank Holidays feature in a Superbreak offer at the Washington Hotel, Mayfair, where a night with full breakfast will cost £71.50 from Friday to Monday.

THE Cotswolds are gentle and small enough to enjoy best by foot or on a bike and Compass Holidays has £50 savings on cycling and walking tours next month.

NEWQUAY, Cornwall, before the crowds arrive, is the destination for a Blackburn Coachlines' trip from north-west England on April 27. Four nights' half-board and excursions cost from £139. Details: 01254 54400.

FREE child places are on offer on cruiser holidays from Norfolk Broads Direct with up to three extra berths per boat normally costing £25 available for under-12s on convertible settees. A family of four with two free places pays from £325 a week in May and June. £405 in high summer. Details: 01603 782207.

AT £165 a night, a "mid-week escape" to Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons is hardly a bargain but you will be staying at Raymond Blanc's exclusive Oxfordshire hotel, enjoying a seven-course gourmet dinner and riding in a chauffeur-driven car to use discount vouchers at designer shops. Details: 01844 278881.

EUROPE

NEW 20-day adventures to historic sites and out-of-the-way places such as Nemrut Dagi in Turkey's mountainous interior begin next month with Explore Worldwide and cost £760, including flights, B&B and a tour leader.

TUNISIA is warm and interesting enough for a decent holiday now and Co-op Travelcare has special deals from Sunday. Fly from Gatwick or Manchester for the Panorama holidays costing from £174 a week with accommodation and some meals. Details: 0541 500388.

WALK through the Doge for a week from May 2 and Belle France will make all the plans. Travel by Eurostar, walk from hotel to hotel with your baggage transferred ahead of you and the cost including half-board will be £692. Details: 01797 223777.

A MEDITERRANEAN hotel holiday for less than £12 a night is on offer from Lun

Poly. The 11-night Thomson trip to Ibiza costs £129 with B&B and a flight from Gatwick on May 3. Details from Lun Poly Holiday Shops.

FIVE-NIGHT cruises in the Western Mediterranean starting from Italy on May 5 and 11, priced from £399, and a ten-night Aegean cruise from May 7 for £585 are among discounted offers from Festival Cruises.

TAKE the pilgrims' path to the 10th-century church in Pieve di Cammino in Tuscany and you will find seven traditionally restored cottages newly available from Invitation to Tuscany for between £344 and £503 in mid-May and June. The company can arrange travel and car hire. Details: 0171-603 7111.

GREECE and its islands are still available at early season bargain prices from Kosmar with one of the best deals a fortnight's self-catering at Tolon in the Peloponnese from May 8 for £189 with a flight from Manchester. Details: 0181-368 6833.



Headline views: one of the ancient statues at Nemrut Dagi

LONG HAUL

THREE nights in Bangkok for £299 or a more leisurely ten-night beach break at Pattaya for £370, both with scheduled return flights from Heathrow. Priced from £798, including B&B and sightseeing. Details: 01306 889991.

ST LUCIA for the early May Bank Holiday, with a week's accommodation at the Islander Hotel for £399, is on offer from Advantage Travel Centres. Fly from Gatwick on May 1. Details: 0870 9090070.

MEGASAVER fares for May have been announced by Virgin Atlantic. Return flights to New York and Boston cost from £299, including taxes, to Hong Kong from £359 and California from £399. Details: 01293 747243.

KUMUKA is offering an African safari at a £100 discount. The tour, from Harare on June 6, features national parks and river trips in Zimbabwe and Botswana and ends at Victoria Falls on June 19. Price: £570, including all meals. Flights extra. Details: 0171-937 8855.

NEPAL without the blisters is how Bales Worldwide describes its ten-day trip leaving from Heathrow on May 30. The tour takes in Kathmandu and its valley, hilltop temples and the mountain resorts of Pokhara and Dhulikhel. Priced from £798, including B&B and sightseeing. Details: 01306 889991.

BALI for a fortnight from £579, including flights, five excursions of the island and breakfasts, is among offers from Destination Far East as the region tries to recover from smog and currency crises. Accommodation is at the three-star Risata Bali Resort near Kuta. Details: 0171-336 7788.

All prices are per person and based on two sharing a room, unless otherwise stated.

WEEKEND TRAVEL See The Times on Saturday for more flight bargains and last-minute holidays

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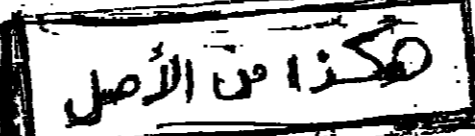
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RACING: HILLS-TRAINED COLT BYPASSES EPSOM CLASSIC DESPITE SUCCESS IN BLUE RIBAND TRIAL

The Glow-Worm turns to Italian Derby

By Chris McGrath

EPSOM Downs offers such an eccentric stage for the world's most famous flat race that a Derby trial over course and distance is an eminently sensible idea. The success of The Glow-Worm in yesterday's Schroder Unit Trusts Blue Riband Trial, however, proved no reconnaissance mission.

On the day the course announced plans to market the Vodafone Derby as "the world's biggest picnic" - a further attempt to renew the



The Glow-Worm, ridden by Michael Hills, wins the Schroder Unit Trusts Blue Riband Trial at Epsom yesterday

RICHARD EVANS
Nags Our Way (4.10 Beverley)
Our Way opened well with the soft ground at Leicester three weeks ago. Today's longer trip should suit, and she can enhance Mel Britain's good record at the Yorkshire track.

heritage of the crowded Downs - Barry Hills decided that the hamper to be opened by The Glow-Worm will contain pasta and chianti.

The Derby Italiano is the plan for The Glow-Worm, whose achievements at two included a staying-on third in the hottest nursery of the season - won at Doncaster by the Sagitta 2,000 Guineas fancy, Lend A Hand. He went on to win a similar race at Newmarket, and resumed his progress yesterday, proving well suited by the test of

stamina presented by 1½ miles on soft ground.

Having said that, the early pace would not have troubled a real glow-worm, and the Doyoun colt's performance was probably better than it looked. For one thing, Michael Hills held him up last of the five runners as they crawled up the hill, and - when he finally challenged Achilles, recently supplemented for the

Derby - he strove to hold his mount together, and win with as little effort as possible. He was stung into action inside the last furlong, urging The Glow-Worm a length-and-a-half clear.

Before Italy, Hills senior hopes that The Glow-Worm will enhance his remarkable record at next month's big Chester meeting. "We've had 92 winners at Chester and this

horse, who will improve for today, will probably go for the Chester Vase, leaving Prolix for the Dee Stakes," the trainer said.

The Italians are not alone in holding an imitation Derby. There was one at Epsom itself yesterday, historically known as "the publicans' Derby". The Great Metropolitan Handicap, nowadays backed by Stanley bookmakers, has

claims to be considered the oldest sponsored race on the Turf, as its first running was funded by a subscription among City publicans. Samuel Beeton, a local lord in Milk Street, Chesham, organised the £300 purse won by Chamoris in 1846, over 2½ miles. Assured Gamble, who stayed on well to deny Wakeel over the Derby trip yesterday, would probably be equally at

home at that distance. But his contribution to Clive Brittain's fine start to the season appeared to prompt the Newmarket trainer into optimism that sounded, even by his dauntless standards, without precedent.

"This is a very good lead horse, and he has been helping Greenlander and Cloud Castle along," Brittain said. At 14-1, Cloud Castle looks decent value for the Sagitta 1,000 Guineas, but Greenlander will surely struggle against Xaar in the 2,000 Guineas. Nonetheless, Brittain kept a

There will be an inspection at 11.30 this morning to determine prospects for Sandown Park's two-day Whitbread meeting, which starts tomorrow. Andrew Cooper, the clerk of the course, said: "The five-furlong course is heavy and just about untraceable. If necessary we will not run the five-furlong races."

perfectly straight face when he added: "I could win both, you know."

The City and Suburban Handicap (first run in 1851, when the same funding principle reached pubs rather closer to Epsom) saw Kewarra stick another feather in his trainer's cap. Standing in the winner's enclosure, Rod Millman surveyed the Downs and said: "I remember leading a horse up here for Reg Akehurst, 20 years ago." This talented trainer has not finished his journey yet.

Table with columns for race name, time, and other details. Includes 'THUNDERER' and '2.10 Easter Ogd'.

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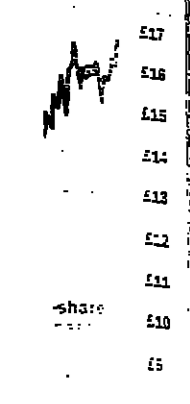
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BRYANT'S EYE 46 How humming a tune can cure your rhythm blues

SPORT

THURSDAY APRIL 23 1998

SNOOKER 50 O'Sullivan struggles to find form at the Crucible



Lazio striker may join compatriots

Chelsea turn attentions to Casiraghi

By Matt Dickinson

CHELSEA have turned abroad again as they attempt to build a side capable of challenging for the FA Cup...

also close to retirement. Casiraghi's arrival may frustrate Tore Andre Flo, however, with the Norwegian already unhappy about his lack of starts.

would match the world-record fee Internazionale paid for Ronaldo. Another international striker attracting attention is Patrick Kluivert, the Holland forward, who is believed to be the target of Arsenal.

Casiraghi, 29, scored the winning goal against Russia in November to secure his country's place in the World Cup finals...

Manchester United are also monitoring the progress of Marc-Vivien Foe and Frederic Dehu, who play for Lens in the French first division.

Manchester United are also monitoring the progress of Marc-Vivien Foe and Frederic Dehu, who play for Lens in the French first division.

The tall striker has, however, endured a lean season in Serie A, spending long periods on the substitutes bench because of the predominance of strikers at Lazio...

Manchester United are also monitoring the progress of Marc-Vivien Foe and Frederic Dehu, who play for Lens in the French first division.

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A robust and physical forward, Casiraghi should suit the English game and thrive on the service from Brian Laudrup, who will join the club from Rangers after the World Cup.

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Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea player-manager, is a known admirer and he wants to sign another striker, despite the apparent glut of them at Stamford Bridge.

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OLIVER HOLT meets MARCO OVERMARS



Greg Rusedski contemplates impending defeat during his second-round match against Boris Becker at the Monte Carlo Open yesterday.

Fears that Gascoigne may miss remainder of season

By David Maddock and Russell Kempson

PAUL GASCOIGNE will undergo a training session with Middlesbrough today that could decide how he spends the rest of the season.

Gascoigne joined the England squad over the weekend, despite several injuries. After a visit to a hospital, it was discovered that the ankle problem is the worst.

Until yesterday morning, it was thought that Gascoigne would play in the England match last night against Portugal, but he secretly slipped away from Bisham Abbey on Tuesday afternoon.

Glenn Hoddle, the England manager, accepted that Gascoigne had no chance of being fit and sent him back to Middlesbrough.

Now the player must endure a strenuous programme of treatment and tests in an attempt to be fit for the Nationwide League first division fixture at Port Vale tomorrow.

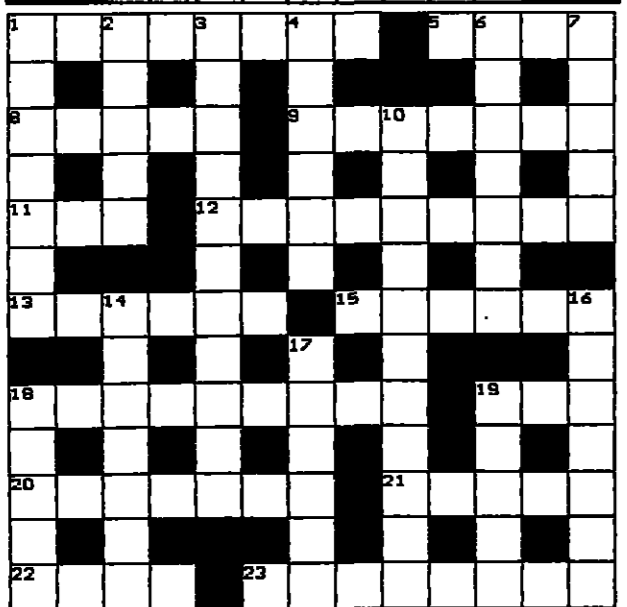
Gascoigne remains upbeat, confiding in friends that he intends to play tomorrow night. Middlesbrough are in fourth position in the table, behind Sunderland in second place only on goals scored.

Shane Nicholson, the West Bromwich Albion defender, has pleaded guilty to a Football Association misconduct charge of having failed to submit to a drugs test.

Nicholson, 27, will discover his punishment within the next three months after he has undergone rehabilitation and assessment.

Jamie Stuart, the former Charlton Athletic defender, has been given permission to resume playing after serving a six-month suspension for failing a drugs test.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1387

- ACROSS: 1 Wall-defacing scribbles (8) 5 Defeat; deprivation (4) 8 Rub clean (5) 9 Fidgety (7) 11 Social, soldier, insect (3) 12 Sounds in wings (stage direction) (6,3) 13 Cut a tax (6) 15 Mooring cable (6) 16 Plantation song (9) 19 A person; an island (3) 20 Very fortunate (7) 21 It, port; a yacht jib (5) 22 Bring up; the back (4) 23 Student's reference volume (8)

- SOLUTION TO NO 1386: ACROSS: 12 Sulphuric 13 Refish 14 Knocks 17 Melba 19 Errata 21 Refugee 22 Suede 23 Yes 24 Treatment DOWN: 1 Shoo 2 Lateral 3 Apt 4 Apathy 5 Eye-opener 6 Abbey 7 Dickens 11 Onslaught 13 Remary 15 Cat's-eye 16 Recede 18 Lofts 20 Nest 22 Sat

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Le Tissier too good to miss out

By Brian Glanville

AFTER his bravura performance for England B against Russia B at Loftus Road on Tuesday night, it was sad but significant to hear Matthew Le Tissier play down his chances of figuring in the England World Cup squad.

Yet it is hard to think of any other contemporary English footballer who could have done all that Le Tissier did, albeit against a Russian defence that, to put it politely, was lax. He bestrode the field. Not only did he score three times, he twice struck the woodwork: first, a few minutes from half-time, when receiving from a free kick, he hit the crossbar; then, near the end, when he headed Hendrie's cross against the outside of a post.

It was from his second-half corner that Nicky Barry got in a near-post header that the goalkeeper blocked almost in self-defence. Though notionally deployed up front, the longer the game lasted, the more Le Tissier sought and found space where he wanted, now and again dropping back to produce searching, long passes.

His finishing was lethal. Apart from those three goals, he hammered a loose ball that Kharinge kept to turn over the bar. The goals themselves were memorable. The first, after 13 minutes, was walloped home from Trevor Sinclair's right-wing cross. The second followed instantly on Bouzoukine's goal for Russia: a dynamic surge through the Russia defence. The third, in injury time, was struck from Johnson's precise, left-wing cross.

Whether Le Tissier's ideal position is up front remains debatable. Personally, one would prefer to see him operate just behind a front pair, giving him more time and space, more opportunity to pull the strings, for he is nothing if not inventive. Goals come almost as a bonus.



Le Tissier: lethal finishing

He dismissed rightly any comparison between himself and Paul Gascoigne, the only English player of comparable gifts. "I'm a completely different player to Gazza. I don't see it as a straight choice between me and Paul." Different, yes, but similar in their sublime ability to conjure something out of nothing, two alchemists with the capacity to do what no other English player can.

Surgery rules Norman out of majors

By John Hopkins GOLF CORRESPONDENT

GREG NORMAN has competed in almost all of golf's four major championships each year since 1980, but he will miss the remaining three majors of this year - the US Open, Open Championship and US PGA - after having arthroscopic surgery on his left shoulder in Vail, Colorado, yesterday.

Norman, who is 43, has not been himself for a couple of months. He withdrew before the start of the Players' Championship at Ponte Vedra Beach in Jacksonville in March because of pain in his shoulder. He returned to his home in Hobe Sound in West Palm Beach, Florida to rest and competed in the Masters in Augusta two weeks ago. However, he missed the halfway cut by four strokes after rounds of 76 and 78.

The operation was performed by Dr Richard Steadman at the Steadman Hawkins Sports Medicine Foundation in Vail. Steadman is a noted sports surgeon, who recently operated on the damaged knee of Picabo Street, the Olympic skier. Collins said that a possible date for Norman's return to competition would be at the Shark Shootout tournament in California in November. "That is if everything goes to plan," he said.

Norman has a bone spur under the top of his left shoulder that is causing tendinitis. There is also some tearing under the rotator cuff and, perhaps, even nearly \$12 million. He won the Open in 1986 and 1993 and has finished second in eight major championships. He is the only golfer to lose the Masters, US Open, Open and PGA championships in play-offs.

Norman missed the 1982 and 1992 US Opens and had to withdraw from the same tournament in 1988 and 1991. He also missed the Open in 1988. Norman works out for two hours each morning when he is at home in Florida. At Augusta, he indicated that he was going to take a longer break to have more treatment on his shoulder. He said then that he hoped to return for a tournament in Atlanta in the middle of May. That has all changed now and there must be doubts as to whether he will be fit to participate in the Presidents Cup, between the United States and an international team that takes place in Melbourne in December.

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